

MEMOIRS

OF THE LATE

CONTESTED ELECTION

FOR THE

COUNTY OF LEICESTER:

OR, A NEW

TRIUMPHAL ARCH

Erected in Honor of Victory obtained from
that CONTEST by the

TRUE OLD INTEREST.

By a *Freeholder of Leicestershire.*

— nunc Turnus ovat spolio, gaudetque potitus.
Nescia mens hominum fati fortisque futurae,
Et servare modum rebus sublata secundis.
Turno tempus erit, magno cum optaverit emptum
Intactum Pallanta, et cum spolia ista diemque
Oderit.—

VIRG.

LEICESTER:

Printed for JOHN IRELAND, Bookseller.

MDCCCLXXV.



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TH E following MEMOIRS were drawn up, as soon as the contest they treat of was ended. They were designed, partly by way of reprisal upon the conquerors, who had shewn an intemperance in their rejoicings, which was thought to border upon insult; and partly to amuse and divert the conquered, by retorting a little mirth and pleasantry upon their adversaries. Some copies, accordingly, were distributed amongst individuals, but without any determined purpose to publish them: and if such purpose was ever in deliberation at all, it was very soon
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laid aside; and they were left to depart silently into that non-entity, from which indeed they had scarcely emerged.

Unluckily, however, they have become an object of attention to the public: many have enquired with eagerness after them; and some have affected to speak of them, even seriously. Hence it was deemed necessary to send them forth at large; lest, from not being sufficiently known, they should pass for something, which they are not; should, perhaps, be imagined to breathe a spirit unrelenting and vindictive, while they are really little more than a *jeu d'esprit*: a mere sally and sport of wit, rather calculated to make ridiculous Electioneering in general, than to serve the purpose of any particular Electors.

Yet the compiler will not deny, that, in the midst of his mirth, he had a serious

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rious point or two in view. One was, to ascertain with more precision and accuracy, than could be done in the tumult of a contest, the views and motives of the Candidate, whose cause he had espoused; to set forth the reasonableness, and shew the consistency, of them: which was the more necessary, as they had been either misrepresented or misunderstood by those who opposed him.—Another, to discredit and explode certain doctrines and opinions, which are absurd in themselves, and pernicious to society; such as hereditary right, passive obedience, non-resistance, and all those slavish anti-revolutional notions, which have usually been ascribed to the advocates of *Old Interest*: for, though no party-man at all himself, nor even thought such by those who know him, he is certainly a friend to liberty civil and religious, and averse to all opinions and practices, which have

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the least tendency to encroach upon either.

It hath indeed been affirmed, that this representation of *Old Interest* is founded altogether upon ignorance and misconception; that all those High-Church Jacobitical principles, for which their forefathers were famous, have been discarded long ago; and that the sole ground of their present contest with the Whiggs is, to hinder the House of Rutland from gaining an ascendancy, and erecting as it were an empire, over the County. And if this is really so, and no pretext or cover, he willingly applauds the principle, and the persons too, how mistaken soever they may be in the application of it. But can any man in his wits be persuaded seriously, that the Whiggs have been at so much expence and trouble in opposing the Tories, merely to raise one common
Master,

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Master, Lord, or Despot, whose will might be a rule of acting to them both? Were this their object, they must be very strange Whiggs indeed; the fundamental principle of true, genuine, unadulterated Whiggism being the preservation of their natural rights and privileges to all men.

The Compiler of these MEMOIRS hath no particular connection with the House of Rutland, and is not conscious of being influenced by any other motives, than those of reason and equity; yet declares, that he can see no impropriety, no inconsistency with the freedom of election, in accepting the interest of that, as well as of any other, House; or even in choosing a Representative from it, were occasion to offer, as is done from noble Houses in many other counties, without design or suspicion of choosing despots,

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despots, or endangering in the least the liberty of such counties.

That the friends of *Old Interest* do not hold the absurdities of ancient Toryism, he knows to be true of some; and one may wonder that it is not true of all, who have the smallest portion of sound understanding. He knows many men of sense and worth in that *interest*, of whom he can say as sincerely as he can of himself, that they are not attached to party-notions of any kind; that they consider real party-men as little better than fanatical zealots, exerting violent passions in favour of foolish prejudices; that they disclaim the characteristics of all parties, as what may make a reasonable man ashamed of any; and that, if like himself they were drawn to act in the late contest, it was by private and personal attachments, not by a spirit of party most certainly.

Upon

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Upon the whole, as the Compiler had much rather be esteemed an honest and humane man, than either a wit or a scholar, he wishes to be believed when he declares, that he hath a perfect goodwill and kindness towards all men; that nothing merely notional, no difference of opinion in either politics or religion, can destroy one grain of his affectionate regard for the well-meaning of all persuasions and parties; that, how ready soever he may be to ridicule the absurd, and chastise the insolent, he is equally ready to serve all men whatever; and that he would deem it a severer reproach, than the petulant tongue of Slander hath ever cast upon him, if he could justly be charged with neglecting this service, when it was in his power to perform it.

No little strokes therefore of ridicule or satire, which may occur in these
MEMOIRS,

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MEMOIRS, should be interpreted too literally, or too seriously: the Compiler would be sorry to give pain to any respectable worthy man; being able to say, as cordially as the Poet,

“Curst be the line, how well foe’er it flow,
“That tends to make one worthy man my foe.”

Leicester,
December, 1775.

ERRATA IN MEMOIRS.

Page 15, line 16, for *still*, read *again*,
19, 15, for *to*, read *of*.
80, 24, for *is*, read *was*.

PREFACE,

P R E F A C E.

WHILE streamers of White and Blue are displayed in almost every village, and the friends of Old Interest roaring out joy, to the unutterable confusion, grief, and despair, of their adversaries, it might seem an omission somewhat singular, if the Press, which hath been active during the war, did not (as is fitting) contribute to the Triumph. The Triumph will surely be more compleat, and (what is of prime consideration) more durable too; the productions of the Press being in their nature more lasting and of stronger impression, than acclamations or even streamers.

With a view to this hath been made the following collection of pieces, which have from time to time come forth in the Public Prints: and these are digested, connected, and remarked upon in such a manner, as may possibly give an amusing image of this memorable contest, even when the prejudices and passions, which have kept it up so briskly, shall have subsided and died away.

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Mean while, the candid reader must be put upon his guard, not to conclude from the title, which for great and weighty reasons I have prefixed to this work, that there is the least intent to launch out and riot in the usual noisy insolence and licentiousness of victory: for I could never reflect without astonishment, how the Romans, after they became civilized, could retain so barbarous an institution, as that of triumphing in form over the Kings and Nations they had conquered. Was it not enough for a Monarch to be dethroned, but he must be publicly led in chains at the wheels of the conqueror's car? Cannot a People be unfortunate, but they must likewise be insulted, because they are so?

With regard to the poor sufferers, now under consideration, I have been too much an eye-witness of their distresses and miseries, to take any advantages, which Victory may have furnished against them. I am of a sympathizing nature; have felt indeed sincerely with them: and, though by good fortune of the winning side, am fully entitled to use the Poet's language,

—Quæque ipse miserrima vidi,
Et quorum pars magna fui—.

February, 1775.

MEMOIRS, &c.

WHEN the Writs, upon the dissolution of the late Parliament, were issued for the election of a new one, Mr. *Winstanley*, the very worthy High-Sheriff of this county, fixed upon a day in October, for the nomination of fit persons to represent it in Parliament. The Hon. Mr. *Noel* and Sir *John Palmer* were nominated that day, and afterwards elected the 20th of that month: nor did any thing particular happen, except that, on the day of nomination, Mr. *Pochin* acquainted the Assembly, that “ though he chose to decline offering himself for the present, because he was unwilling to disturb the peace of the county, yet he meant to do himself that honor upon any future vacancy, and should then be happy to be favored with their approbation.” The Hon. Mr. *Booth Grey* had spoke to the same import before him, and concluded with his wishes, that Mr. *Pochin* might then be thought of.”

But, alas! this future vacancy was almost present: Lord *Wentworth* was in the last stage of a general

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decay:

decay: on which account the lovers of Peace were ready to regret, that the intentions of Mr. *Pochin* were not *then* taken into consideration; and the affair compromised and settled in such a manner, as to leave no room for breach of harmony or contest *hereafter*. Whether or no this could have been effected, is not easy to determine: however Lord *Wentworth* died, as every body believed he would, in a very short time; Mr. *Noel* ascended to the Upper House; and the Sheriff fixed upon the 15th of November for a fresh nomination. Mr. *Pochin* and Mr. *Hungerford* offered themselves as candidates: and, the pretensions of these gentlemen not admitting of any compromise, a canvass was instantly begun; printed papers every where dispersed; and the usual spirit of contention raised and propagated by the leaders on both sides.

But to go a little back, and to mention a procedure, which gave rise to most heavy and piteous complainings, we must observe, that Mr. *Pochin* had, *before* the day of nomination, dispersed a handbill in the following terms:

“ To the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of
“ the County of Leicester.

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ THE death of the late Lord Viscount *Went-*
“ *worth* having occasioned a vacancy for this county
“ in Parliament, I hope you will excuse the liberty
“ I take of informing you of my intentions to offer
“ my services, when a public meeting shall be call-

“ ed ; and I shall consider myself honored by your
 “ attendance and approbation. I am, Gentle-
 “ men, &c.

“ *Barkby,*
 “ Nov. 4, 1774. W^m. POCHIN.”

To which Mr. *Hungerford* replied, as follows, in the *Leicester-Journal* of November the 12th, wherein also Mr. *Pochin's* paper was again made more public.

“ Mr. *Hungerford's* best compliments to the
 “ Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the
 “ county of Leicester. He is very sorry, that any
 “ one should address them in so *unconstitutional* a
 “ manner, as has been lately practised ; because he
 “ always understood it to be an invariable rule, that
 “ every gentleman, who has an inclination to offer
 “ himself a candidate for Parliament, should *not can-*
 “ *vass* sooner than the day, appointed by the *Sheriff* for
 “ the nomination. But, as that *honorable* and *lauda-*
 “ *ble* custom is already violated, Mr. *Hungerford* is
 “ under a necessity of informing his friends, that he
 “ intends taking the *sense* of the *Meeting* at Leicester,
 “ advertised by the *Sheriff* for the 15th instant ; when
 “ he begs the favor of their early attendance.

“ *Dingley-Hall,*
 “ Nov. 11, 1774.”

Mr. *Pochin*, to prevent any impression, which might be made to his disadvantage, by a charge of having acted *unconstitutionally*, issued forth the same

day a printed paper ; in which he declared, that “ it
 “ would give him the greatest concern, if the having
 “ addressed the Freeholders in an *unconstitutional*
 “ manner could be truly imputed to him : but humbly
 “ submitted, that his having publicly informed them
 “ of his intention to offer himself, was not only far
 “ from being *unconstitutional*, but at least proper, if
 “ not necessary, as it afforded time for the offer to
 “ be considered.”

Mr. *Hungerford* returned to the charge, but dropped the term *unconstitutional*, which was very well : and if he had dropped the charge too, it would have been better. True it is, that Mr. *Pochin* did apply, *before* the day of nomination : he did it openly, and therefore (as must be presumed) in his own opinion rightly ; without the least suspicion of having acted even irregularly, much less *unconstitutionally*. But it is as true, on the other hand, that these his applications were many of them rejected : and the reason given for rejecting them was, that the parties applied to were pre-engaged to Mr. *Hungerford*.—This, methinks, was a very forced and awkward manœuvre at the first setting out : but it was the manœuvre of the *True Old Interest*, whose partisans will not be found gifted with any particular dexterity of address.

As soon as the candidates were nominated, the arts of electioneering were immediately put in practice ; and among the rest those of dispersing printed papers, and publishing advertisements in the County Journal. I shall insert, as I go along, the principal pieces ; by which I mean such, as seem necessary to give a view of the election in general :
 omitting

omitting those, which are rather of a detached and epis-
 odical kind, than essentially connected with the main
 action itself. The following are all addressed to the
 Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders, of the county
 of Leiceſter; and will be intelligible upon ſight.

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ UPON the general and independent intereſt
 “ of this county, I beg leave to offer you my ſer-
 “ vices upon the preſent vacancy. As I am uninflu-
 “ enced and unconnected with any particular party
 “ or ſet of men, I flatter myſelf I ſhall merit your
 “ countenance and ſupport; and ſhould I be ſo
 “ happy as to ſucceed, I ſhall be always attentive
 “ to the intereſt of my country in general, and of
 “ this county in particular.

“ *Leiceſter,*

“ Nov. 15, 1774.

“ I am, Gentlemen, &c.

“ W^m. POCHIN.”

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ I Return you my moſt ſincere thanks for your
 “ very numerous and reſpectable appearance this day
 “ in my favor, at the General Meeting, upon my
 “ being nominated as a proper perſon to repreſent
 “ you in the enſuing Parliament. I beg leave to
 “ ſolicit the continuance of your ſupport on the day
 “ of election; and ſhould I be ſo happy to ſucceed,
 “ you may depend upon my utmoſt endeavors to
 “ maintain the *true, old*, independent intereſt of this
 “ county

“ county in particular, and the constitution of my
 “ country in general.

“ I might have applied to you sooner, but I thought
 “ that any application previous to the General Meet-
 “ ing, would be as presumptuous in itself, as con-
 “ trary to the immemorial custom of this county ;
 “ and I trust that these scruples, which have been
 “ entirely overlooked by my opponent, will not in-
 “ jure me in your opinion.

“ I have the honor to be, Gentlemen, &c.

“ JOHN PEACH HUNGERFORD.”

“ *Leicester,*

“ Nov. 15, 1774.

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ HAVING had the honor of being this day, at a
 “ very respectable and numerous meeting, nominated
 “ as a proper person to represent this county in Par-
 “ liament, permit me to return my most grateful
 “ thanks, and to solicit your support on the day of
 “ election.

“ I will strictly adhere to the declaration I this
 “ day publicly made of preserving my independency ;
 “ and if I am honored by your choice, my utmost
 “ endeavours shall be exerted in support of the *true*
 “ interest, (whether *old* or *new*) of the kingdom in
 “ general, and this county in particular.

“ *Leicester,*

“ Nov. 15, 1774.

“ I am, Gentlemen, &c.

“ W^m. POCHIN.”

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ THE appearance of Freeholders this day at the
 “ Castle, in pursuance of a summons from the High
 “ Sheriff, to consider of a proper person to repre-
 “ sent them in Parliament, affords me the greatest
 “ satisfaction. I am now convinced that neither the
 “ most consummate artifice, nor the hasty and very
 “ unwarrantable application of my opponent, can
 “ injure the independent cause I have the honor to
 “ espouse, nor warp the integrity of those people,
 “ whom it is my ambition to reckon amongst the
 “ number of my friends.

“ Whatever may be my fate on the day of trial,
 “ when your free suffrages are to operate, and from
 “ which I have every reason to expect the fullest
 “ success; be assured I shall at no time, nor in any
 “ degree, render myself unworthy of that confi-
 “ dence you are disposed to place in me, and which
 “ it is not only my boast to have, but will be my
 “ pride to deserve. Unawed by fear, uninfluenced
 “ by faction, and much superior to any indirect illi-
 “ beral means, I offer myself as an independent man
 “ to your choice: and should my honest endeavors,
 “ to avail myself of your good opinion, in the end
 “ be crowned with success, it shall be the great and
 “ first object of my future conduct, to express the
 “ just sense I have of the obligation you lay me un-
 “ der, to serve my country with that fidelity you
 “ have a right to expect, and at all times to pay a

“ strict regard to the interest of the county of Leicester.
 “ cester.

“ *Dingley-Hall,* “ I am, Gentlemen, &c.
 “ Nov. 15, 1774. “ J. P. HUNGERFORD.”

“ GENTLEMEN;

“ I Hope you will permit me as a plain honest
 “ man, to address a few words to you, in answer to
 “ a very extraordinary advertisement of my opponent.
 “ nent.

“ I stand charged with having made use of a *most*
 “ *consummate artifice, and very hasty and unwarrantable*
 “ *application to you.* With regard to the former
 “ part of the charge, I was willing to sound the
 “ sentiments of some particular gentlemen, upon
 “ the thoughts I had entertained of offering my services
 “ to the county. I meant no *artifice* in this
 “ application: let my opponent ask some of his
 “ friends, if they can acquit their consciences in
 “ the part they are so warmly taking, after the answers
 “ sent to my application, which he is pleased
 “ to say was made with that *most consummate artifice.*
 “ As to the latter part of the charge, allow me to
 “ ask, how my application *before* the day of nomination
 “ (which I conclude is what he means, when he styles it
 “ *unwarrantable*) can deserve that epithet?
 “ Did I not at the general nomination, on the dissolution
 “ of Parliament, declare my intentions of offering myself
 “ at a future vacancy? Am I then
 “ culpable

“ culpable in taking the earliest opportunity of de-
 “ firing the honor of your support ?

“ He boasts of being *uninfluenced by faction*. Your
 “ own judgment, Gentlemen, must decide upon
 “ this point, whether I, who was nominated upon
 “ the *general* interest of the county, or my worthy
 “ opponent, who was expressly proposed upon the
 “ *old* interest, stand the clearest from party preju-
 “ dice.

“ From the very great encouragement I have met
 “ with on my canvass, I am convinced that the
 “ minds of *my* friends are superior to such *illiberal*
 “ invectives. Should your zealous endeavors in my
 “ support be crowned with success, be assured, you
 “ shall never have reason to reproach *me* with being
 “ the tool of any party or set of men whatever, or
 “ that I will ever swerve from that independency
 “ which I have professed.

“ *Barkby,*
 “ Nov. 25, 1774.

“ I am, Gentlemen, &c.

“ W^m. POCHIN.”

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ AS Mr. *Hungerford* is now upon his canvass of
 “ the county, it cannot be expected that he should
 “ have spare time to answer any *very extraordi-*
 “ *nary advertisement* of his opponent. Give me
 “ leave then as a Freeholder, and one who has a
 “ right to deliver his sentiments on this occasion, to
 “ endeavor an answer for him.—But how must I
 “ address myself to you?—Why Mr. *Pochin* has
 “ very

“ very modestly shewed me a preface, and I suppose
“ it will be no impeachment of my understanding to
“ follow so *great an example*.

“ I hope you will permit me as a very plain
“ man, [my honesty I leave to be settled by my
“ neighbours] to answer a *very extraordinary ad-*
“ *vertisement* of Mr. *Pochin's*.

“ He tells us, he stands charged with having
“ made use of a most *consummate artifice*, and a *very*
“ *hasty and unwarrantable application*.

“ In regard to the former part of the charge,
“ he seems to stand clear ; for the *artifice* was *con-*
“ *summate* only in its *absurdity*, and the argument
“ was covered with so thin a cobweb, that it
“ was blown away by the breath of every reader.—
“ Was not the sounding of the sentiments of *par-*
“ *ticular* gentlemen, an avowed espousal of a *par-*
“ *ticular* party ? And could it be deemed a nomi-
“ nation of a general interest when Mr. *Pochin*
“ had divided that interest by being nominated by
“ a *particular* set of partizans ? a set of men, who
“ had long served under the banners of the Go-
“ vernor of Belvoir-castle ; and towards which place
“ Mr. *Pochin* had long cast his eyes, as to that hill
“ from whence he was to derive the chief arm of
“ his assistance and support, and which he is now
“ actually availing himself of, however anxious he
“ may be of concealing it.

“ Those friends of Mr. *Hungerford*, who had
“ eyes to perceive the snare that was laid for them,
“ had sense enough to make an *honorable* retreat ;
“ and cannot surely be charged with any breach of
“ friendship

“ friendship for having avoided a stumbling-block
 “ laid in their way with such *consummate artifice*.

“ I do most sincerely wish that some of Mr. *Pochin*'s friends, who are yet *wilfully blind*, and yet
 “ *willing to be deceiv'd*, would reflect, how *they* can
 “ justify themselves, when their conduct will long
 “ remain under the exposure of a general disappro-
 “ bation; after the heats and animosities, occasioned
 “ by this election, shall be long buried in silence and
 “ oblivion.—Mr. *Pochin* says, Mr. *Hungerford*
 “ charges him with being *hasty* and *unwarrantable*
 “ in his *application*. *Who* can entertain the least
 “ doubt about it, when he is informed that the
 “ Sheriff appointed his meeting on the 15th day
 “ of November, and Mr. *Pochin*'s letters had been
 “ distributed about the county on the sixth? His pro-
 “ cedure was surely setting the Sheriff's authority
 “ at defiance.

“ Mr. *Hungerford* is very well convinced by this
 “ time, that there is not a Freeholder in the county,
 “ where he has made his personal application, but
 “ is of his opinion, that he stands clear of the two
 “ grand charges of *Illiberality*, and *Invective*.

“ A FREEHOLDER.”

The *endeavors* of this *Freeholder* to answer Mr. *Pochin*'s advertisement were published in the *Leicester-Journal* of December the 3d, and Mr. *Hungerford* might probably applaud them: for my own part, I think an advocate of this stamp sufficient to ruin any cause upon earth. Only observe him, I beseech you. Mr. *Pochin* had been charged by Mr. *Hungerford* with
 having

having “ used a most consummate artifice, as well as
 “ a very hasty and unwarrantable application.” Now,
 what says this matchless vindicator of Mr. *Hungerford*
 in support of the charge ? Why, he says, that
 “ in regard to the former part of it, Mr. *Pochin*
 “ seems to stand clear : for the *artifice* was *consum-*
 “ *mate* only in its *absurdity*, and the argument co-
 “ vered with so thin a cobweb, that it was blown
 “ away by the breath of every reader.” Indeed ?
 what then is become of poor Mr. *Hungerford*, who had
 brought this charge ? he of course must be given up,
 as standing fairly convicted, by this his notable ad-
 vocate, of having been a false accuser : for an *artifice*,
consummate only in its *absurdity*, is in reality no arti-
 fice at all.

But how was this *artifice*, if it must be an *artifice*,
 so very *absurd*, that every reader could see through
 it at once ? Because, while Mr. *Pochin* affected a *ge-*
neral interest, he sounded the sentiments of *particular*
 gentlemen, and was *nominated* by a *particular* party :
 “ a set of men, who had long served under the ban-
 “ ners of Belvoir-castle,” &c.—We shall hear more
 about *Belvoir-castle*, and of *banners* too, by and by :
 let us confine ourselves for the present to the point
 before us.—If Mr. *Pochin* was to be nominated at
 all, he must be nominated by somebody ; and this
 somebody would probably be reckoned of one of
 the parties. No, would the *True Old Interest*
 reply : if he had been nominated by *us*, he would
 not have been nominated by any particular party.
We are of no party : *We* are the standing, established,
 authorized *Interest* in this county ; the precious de-
 pository

pository, in which all its sacred rights and privileges are preserved: and none are party-men, but they who dissent from, or affect to act independently of, *Us*. So that, it seems, Mr. *Pochin*, to have avoided the imputation of this *absurd artifice*, should have been nominated by the *True Old Interest*; and by it only, exclusively of any other.

He goes on: "The friends of Mr. *Hungerford*, " who had eyes to perceive the snare that was laid " for them," &c.—What does the man mean? Lately, when it was a *cobweb*, every reader could blow it away: now it is become a *snare*, some of Mr. *Hungerford*'s friends were so blind, that they could not *perceive* it. But, let him proceed with those, who could and did perceive it: what of them? Why, "they had sense enough to make an *honorable* retreat; and cannot surely be charged with " any breach of friendship, for having avoided a " *stumbling-block* laid in their way with such *consum-* " *mate artifice*."—Patient reader, can't thou stay to observe, what strange transformations this unfortunate manœuvre of Mr. *Pochin* hath undergone? First, it was a *cobweb*, which every reader could see; then, it became a *snare*, which many readers could not see; and, lastly, it is a *stumbling-block*, laid in the way with an *artifice*, no longer *consummate* in its *absurdity*, but really and truly in itself *consummate*; and though some insects of larger bulk (to use one of his metaphors) had broke a way through this cobweb, yet others, by his own confession, were still most miserably entangled in it.

But,

But I can follow this writer no farther.—Positively, were I to be a candidate, there is no one department I should be more studious to inspect and regulate, than that of the scribbling gentry. Upon these occasions, many poor animals, who ought never to attempt more than signing with their names, will dare to appear in public form as writers: whence it comes to pass, that, where a gentleman is really defended once, he is exposed and made ridiculous perhaps half a dozen times. In the present composition, to say nothing of the stile and manner, which are far below all criticism,—was ever so much contradiction, absurdity, and nonsense, crowded into so small a compass?—The writer, in the beginning of it, supposes with a sneer, that it will be “no impeachment of his understanding, to follow so great an example as Mr. *Pochin's* :” but it ill becomes him to be assuming. If he answers in other things to the specimen here given, we may safely assure him, that he is as capable of flying to the moon, as of imitating Mr. *Pochin* in any respect whatever.

In the *St. James's Chronicle* of the 29th of November, the following queries had been addressed to Mr. *Pochin* :

“SIR,

“Upon the death of the late Sir *Thomas Palmer*,
 “when your inclinations led you to disturb the
 “peace of the county of Leicester, did not the
 “gentlemen of this county assure you, that, if you
 “would not then give any trouble to the present
 “worthy

“ worthy Representative, they would join you with
 “ him at the then next general election? Did not
 “ you, Sir, after some days taken to consider of
 “ that most honorable proposal, declare, that your
 “ connections with the Rutland family were such,
 “ as rendered it impossible for you to accept of sup-
 “ port from any other interest, than that of the
 “ House of Rutland? Is this standing upon the
 “ general independent interest of the county?

“ Q IN A CORNER.”

I have placed these queries here, partly because they came forth about this time, and partly that the reader may have leisure to ponder the contents of them; for they will indeed be found curious, when looked into attentively. They stood for some time unnoticed, and they must stand so still: but they will fall hereafter, in the course of this history, under the cognizance of a writer, who will do them the justice they richly deserve. Indeed the following short answer, if that may be called a notice, was made to them in the Leicester-Journal of the 3d of December.

“ An Advertisement having appeared in the *St. James's Chronicle*, on Tuesday the 29th of November, addressed to *William Pochin, Esq;* the anonymous author is hereby informed, that, if he will set his name to it, he shall have a full and proper answer to it, if he appears to be a person of sufficient consequence to deserve any notice.”

I do not perfectly comprehend, what this gentleman means by—*sufficient consequence to deserve any notice.* From the little experience I have had in election-matters,

matters, every person as well as every thing appears of consequence sufficient to be noticed: at least, I have not yet learned, what is not of this consequence, or what I can, upon any safe foundation in political wisdom, neglect and despise. I know, that *noticing* many of these persons and things may, with some justness of ridicule, be called *breaking of butterflies upon a wheel*: but I know too, that, unless these *butterflies* be so broken, they will presently grow to the size of eagles; at least in the estimation of those, by whom they were produced and nurtured. The queries just mentioned will be found a striking confirmation of this extraordinary truth.

Some time before this, a most desperate and extinguishable war broke out in a particular district; of which it must be said, if it ever can in any case be said, that a small fire did kindle a very great flame. It first appeared at Harborough: and the cause of it was one Mr. *Stephen Addington*, a dissenting minister, who resides in that town. This gentleman attached himself from the beginning to Mr. *Hungerford*, and carried his congregation into the same interest: which unexpected departure, from what was deemed his natural interest, produced indeed surprize in all, but fired with indignation his dissenting brethren, who considered this departure as no better than a kind of traiterous revolt. Remonstrances pouring in from all sides upon him, he thought himself obliged, by way of justifying his conduct, to publish the following letter in the *Leicester-Journal*.

“ SIR,

“ SIR,

“ HAVING been repeatedly informed that many
“ within the circuit of your paper, have lately ex-
“ pressed their surprize at my attachment to Mr.
“ *Hungerford* in the present contest, and that the
“ reasons of it have been mistaken by some in con-
“ sequence of being misrepresented by others, I beg
“ room for a short explanation of them in your next
“ Journal.—Those who have done me the honor
“ to pay any regard to my opinion in the affair will,
“ I presume, give me credit, when I assure them, as
“ I now do, that the insinuations, thrown out of
“ Mr. *Hungerford's* attempting to use undue influ-
“ ence with me and my friends in this neighbour-
“ hood, are equally false and ungenerous. So far
“ from it, he never so much as asked my vote before
“ the County Meeting, nor do I know that he has
“ been since in our neighbourhood. All I say and
“ do in his favor is (and, in these cases, ever shall
“ be) freely and upon principle: nor have I reason
“ to think, he wishes his friends to be influenced by
“ any less honorable motives. What I have known
“ of Mr. *Hungerford*, during the twenty years I
“ have lived in his near neighbourhood, has inclined
“ me to recommend him upon this occasion as a
“ gentleman of independent fortune and a public
“ spirit—a liberal benefactor to the necessitous and
“ deserving of his fellow-creatures without distinc-
“ tion of parties—a man of strict integrity and ho-
“ nor—a true friend to the illustrious Royal Family
“ now on the throne—and a well-wisher to the

C

“ civil

“ civil and religious liberties of his fellow-sub-
 “ jects—a gentleman of spirit and abilities to distin-
 “ guish himself, to do honor to his constituents, and
 “ to serve his country in Parliament—and who will
 “ not be afraid or ashamed either to vote or to speak
 “ there with a freedom becoming a British Senator
 “ and an honest man.

“ Gentlemen of such a character I shall ever wish
 “ in the House of Commons: and as *Mr. Hunger-*
 “ *ford* has now pledged his honor that he will pre-
 “ serve his independency there, and never accept of
 “ place or pension under any administration, he ap-
 “ pears to me entitled to the encouragement of every
 “ well-wisher to his King and Country, as well as
 “ that of

“ *Harborough,*
 “ *Nov. 24, 1774.*

“ Sir, Your's, &c.

“ ST. ADDINGTON.”

This letter of *Mr. Addington* is at least frank and open, and breathes the spirit of a man, who spoke what he thought, and who seemed determined to act from conviction and principle. It amounts indeed to no more than this, “ I have a very good opi-
 “ nion of *Mr. Hungerford*, and am therefore re-
 “ solved to give him my vote and interest:” and many persons thought, that, if *Mr. Addington* had confined himself to this general language, he would have been intrenched beyond a possibility of being forced. But he was seduced by certain assailants, unwarily to sally forth in a second epistle: in which he not only flies now and then to subterfuges and evasions,

evasions, but has wantonly indulged himself in personal strictures.

One of his antagonists had spoken highly of Mr. *Pochin's* personal qualities, because it was imagined, that the picture of Mr. *Hungerford*, given by Mr. *Addington*, was intended, in the way of contrast, to depreciate Mr. *Pochin*. Mr. *Addington*, in his second letter, denies very solemnly, that he had any such intention: and if he had stopped here, what farther could have been said?—But very unguardedly, in our opinion at least, he suffered himself to run out into what did not belong to him, and had nothing at all to do in the dispute with his dissenting brethren, with whom alone he was as it were necessarily engaged. “I will not deny,” says he to the advocate for Mr. *Pochin*, “any thing he has said of that worthy gentleman: but I would not assert all he does of him or of any man, without having (as he protests he has not) any personal knowledge of him.—But he had received intelligence, he tells you, *from the echo of the world*.—If this echo-hunter can hear the soft voice of a salutary proverb—*fama est mendax*—it may perhaps be an useful caution to him another time, against imposing on mankind the echo's of the world's opinion for the words of truth and soberness.” Good heavens! how are we to understand him? Is this to deny what was said of Mr. *Pochin*, or is it not?

Mr. *Addington's* second letter is a very long one: the several answers to both his letters are also very long: and therefore, as they are not necessary towards giving that *general view* of this affair, to which I

meant to confine myself, I have thought it better to omit them in this collection. Nay, if I may speak out, I had yet a farther reason. The replies to Mr. *Addington*, though drawn up by sensible worthy gentlemen, and with exceeding good meaning, yet seem to me rather too sharp and acrimonious. Mr. *Addington's* singularity consists, in voting *with one* set of men, who are supposed at least enemies to religious liberty, *against another*, who are the maintainers and abettors of it. A striking inconsistency, no doubt, in the conduct of a dissenting minister, who owes his very support to this very liberty; but yet no more, than an inconsistency: and if Mr. *Addington* is inconsistent and absurd, let him receive that correction, which inconsistency and absurdity deserve.

Ridicule and pleasantry, and not the acrid operations of reason, are the proper weapons to be used upon such theatres as these. Politics, in the heads of nine out of ten, is nothing but a jumble of absurdities and contradictions; and makes men infinitely more the objects of laughter, than indignation: and the war becomes abundantly too serious for the object of it, when humanity and good will are in danger of being sacrificed to prejudice and passion. For my own part, were I to be engaged in twenty such contests, I could (I am persuaded) preserve the utmost kindness for the *persons* of my antagonists, while I employed all the wit and raillery I was master of against their *cause*: nay, I could go farther; I could even live in friendship with them, were they good kind of men.

Mr. *Addington's* misfortune was, that his adversaries were gentlemen of his own religious persuasion ; and bore with him more impatiently, because they were so. They looked upon this procedure of his, as a kind of treason against their establishment ; because they considered him as acting against those principles, on which this establishment is tolerated and upheld. However I cannot but think, that this dissenting minister has done a very sufficient penance for his demerits, as far as they have yet appeared : so hacked and hewed from every quarter, that he has often put me in mind of poor Deiphobus in Virgil, whom the poet describes

———— lacerum crudeliter ora,
Ora manusque ambas, populataque tempora raptis
Auribus, et truncas inhonesto vulnere nares.

The contest was now about a month old ; every body in motion, even to hurry and tumult ; and altercation running high both in and out of print. But the dispute, as is usual in such cases, growing more and more personal, and especially from what had passed in Mr. *Addington's* affair, a certain writer took it into his head to call the parties to order as it were, by stating the grounds of the dispute between them, and thus leading their attention from persons to things.

“ To the Printer of the Leicester Journal.

"SIR,

“ A warm debate has been carried on in your
“ paper between Mr. *St. Addington* and certain op-
“ ponents,

“ponents, which hath chiefly turned upon the
 “*private* qualities of our candidates.—But this, in
 “my opinion, is not going to the bottom of the
 “matter: for, while it is contended that both are
 “very good sort of men, it is possible that neither
 “may be proper to be sent into Parliament. *Moral*
 “and *religious* goodness are doubtless necessary to
 “men, as *men*; but to be rightly and duly quali-
 “fied as *members of Parliament*, they must be some-
 “thing more than even *morally* and *religiously* good:
 “they must be also *politically* good; that is, they
 “must possess principles and a temper, suited to
 “that particular destination. A Roman Catholic
 “may be a very good man; surely there are very
 “good men of that communion: but a Roman
 “Catholic, I presume, would not be thought a fit
 “person to represent free Britons in Parliament.
 “Why? because he holds principles, destructive of
 “the British constitution and liberties; principles,
 “which would tend directly to enslave us, as they
 “did in the reign of James II.

“The present gentlemen, we will say, are very
 “good *men*, and so far upon a level: their prefer-
 “ence then as *candidates* must be determined by their
 “*political* merit; and this *political* merit by the
 “grounds or principles, on which they stand. Mr.
 “Pochin stands upon the *general* and *independent* in-
 “terest of the county: that is, he offers himself as
 “a person, who will pay no regard to distinctions
 “or names; who disclaims the characteristics of
 “both parties, which have usually been such, as
 “might make a reasonable man ashamed of either;
 “who

“ who is determined to judge upon all occasions
 “ for himself, and to act according to that judgment,
 “ whatever it may be. He will have no object, but
 “ the good of his country; and he will exert all his
 “ powers to promote this good, without respect to
 “ persons, or partiality for opinions.

“ Mr. *Hungerford* certainly has not offered him-
 “ self upon so liberal and enlarged a bottom: for he
 “ stands only on the *true old* interest of the county.
 “ But, what is this said *true old* interest? Is it not
 “ the *old* Tory system; originally formed by cer-
 “ tain High-Church divines, and since maintained
 “ by a party in the kingdom, their profound ad-
 “ mirers and followers? The principles, on which
 “ this system was built, were Prerogative, Passive-
 “ obedience, Non-resistance, Slavery: and these
 “ notable doctrines, by the help of certain texts in
 “ scripture most gloriously perverted, were made the
 “ marks of a good christian as well as a good citi-
 “ zen.—Now as Mr. *Hungerford* professes to stand
 “ upon the *true old* interest, how can we suppose
 “ him to be that real *well-wisher to our civil and reli-*
 “ *gious liberties*, which Mr. *Addington* hath repre-
 “ sented him? If Mr. *Addington* has read the
 “ history of his country, he must know, that the
 “ friends of civil and religious liberties have never
 “ been those of the *true old* interest; nay, that if this
 “ *true old* interest had not formerly been over-ruled,
 “ there would never have been any such thing as
 “ liberty, civil or religious.

“ It is remarkable, that this Mr. *St. Addington*,
 “ who hath shewn so much zeal for Mr. *Hunger-*

“ *ford*, is a *dissenting preacher*. How the gentleman
“ reconciles things in his own ideas, I know not :
“ but most men, I believe, will be persuaded with
“ me, that if *true old* interest had prevailed, he might
“ indeed have *dissented* if he had so pleased, but
“ must certainly have kept his *preaching* to himself.
“ There is something so grossly absurd and contra-
“ dictory in the procedure of this divine, that many
“ have suspected him of insincerity ; as if he were
“ governed by selfish and interested motives. But
“ we need not recur to so harsh a supposition : he
“ is not the first simple-minded man, who has run
“ his head against his own principles. He means to
“ serve the person of Mr. *Hungerford*, without con-
“ sidering, perhaps, any thing about his cause, or
“ what the tendency of it is ; and many are of opi-
“ nion that he really will serve him.

“ I am sure I dare by no means affirm, that he
“ will not ; for, whatever may be said against zeal
“ *without* knowledge, 'tis by far a better instrument
“ to work with, in all these desperate scenes of
“ action, than zeal *with* knowledge. For what,
“ alas ! is zeal *with* knowledge ? a poor, cold, life-
“ less, inactive principle ; timid in its nature, and
“ slow in deliberating before it proceeds to motion.
“ On the contrary, zeal *without* knowledge rushes
“ from the first impetuously on, and (as they say)
“ *without fear or wit* ; scorns hesitation, doubt, or
“ reasoning ; and, like a run-a-way horse, some-
“ times carries its rider triumphantly to the goal,
“ and sometimes (as must with grief be confessed)
“ flings him unhappily into the mire.

“ Oliver

“ Oliver Cromwell used to say, that *a man never*
 “ *soars so high, as when he does not know whither*
 “ *he is going.* Numbers act upon this principle,
 “ without suspecting that they do: and Mr. St.
 “ *Addington*, if we judge from the irregular heat and
 “ intemperance of his zeal, must naturally be con-
 “ sidered as one of this class.—But I know him not,
 “ and cannot pronounce any thing with certainty
 “ of him; I leave it to his brethren the dissenters to
 “ decide upon him, and to do him such justice, as,
 “ from their better knowledge of him, shall be
 “ found meet and fit.

“ I am, Sir, Your's, &c.

“ Dec. 16, 1774.

“ LEICESTRIENSIS.”

The two following letters were published about this time, and are here presented to the reader as originals in their kind. The former speaks in the lofty tone and overbearing manner of authority, and seems the more insolent by a certain distant civility which it affects: the latter is nobly animated with the firm unbroken spirit of freedom, innocence, and independency.

From an Officer of the Duchy of Lancaster to the
Confrater of Wigston's-Hospital, Leicester.

“ SIR,

“ I am directed by Lord *Hyde* to acquaint you,
 “ that though it is his Lordship's wish *to promote the*
 “ *interest of Mr. Hungerford* on the present contest
 “ for

“ for the county of Leicester, yet his Lordship does
 “ not desire to influence his officers against their own
 “ inclinations. But having received *intimation*, that
 “ the influence, derived from the office *you* hold un-
 “ der the duchy, has been exerted on the present occa-
 “ sion, I am commanded to signify to you his Lord-
 “ ship’s great disapprobation to that measure; and
 “ particularly that his Lordship will consider it, as
 “ a great breach of the trust reposed in his officers,
 “ to encourage any Freeholders to engage their votes
 “ upon any promise or expectation of themselves
 “ or their dependants succeeding to places in the
 “ duchy hospitals on any future vacancies, or to
 “ make those places in any respect subservient to
 “ the purposes of an election: and his Lordship
 “ desires, that this notice may be considered as *pro-*
 “ *hibitory* of such improper conduct in any of his
 “ officers.

“ I am, Sir, &c.

“ Dec. 2, 1774.”

“ To John Peach Hungerford, Esq;

“ SIR,

“ The procuring the above official letter *to me*, is
 “ I suppose one of the paltry artifices of your under
 “ agents. The manner of conveying that singular
 “ piece of intelligence in the beginning is curious,
 “ and the formal prohibition at the end, at least un-
 “ necessary. Both the master of the hospital, and
 “ the confrater, are no doubt liable to a law-process
 “ in the duchy court, for misapplying the power
 “ intrusted

“ intrusted to them ; and you, Sir, are equally liable to a law-proceſs in Weſtminſter-hall, for a miſapplication of your own money, if it be employed in bribery and corruption.

“ I received the patent appointing me confrater for life from Lord *Edgcumbe*, and am no more an officer or ſervant of Lord *Hyde*, than a rector is a ſervant of his dioceſan. The appointment of the poor is in the *maſter*, not the confrater, unleſs the maſter neglects to nominate, which has happened three times in the courſe of nineteen years. The firſt time I appointed a poor friendleſs woman *Eleanor Warburton*. The next time I appointed *John Walker* (late clerk of St. Nicholas) whom I thought a proper object, notwithſtanding he had been for forty years a ſtrenuous ſtickler for your old (Tory) intereſt, and always voted accordingly in the Borough elections. At the laſt laſe, hearing accidentally that *Richard Roberts Drake*, Eſq; then Mayor of Leiceſter, had a diſtant relation in diſtreſs, and a proper object of the charity, I unſolicited ſent to Mr. Mayor, making an offer of the place for his relation; and accordingly *John Drake* was admitted into the hoſpital July 25, 1774.—I preſume, Sir, you reckon the mayor and aldermen among your friends on this occaſion.

“ I ſhall ſhow my contempt of the ſlanderous *intimations*, and the impotent threats of your adherents, by a ſteady oppoſition to your election into Parliament.

“ I am, Sir, Your's, &c.

“ THOMAS LUDLAM.”

The

The following letter was addressed to the freeholders of the county, and printed in the Leicester Journal of December the 17th :

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ Mr. *Pochin* having, in his address, complained
 “ of being accused of *having made use of the most consummate Artifice, and a very hasty and unwarrantable Application*, permit me to bestow, on that performance a few remarks, which, I trust, will not be
 “ treated, even by that gentleman himself, as *illiberal invectives*.

“ Did not Mr. *Pochin*, in the very earliest period
 “ of the present vacancy, apply to several gentlemen (of principles supposed to be the least favourable to his wishes) under the pretext of his standing upon *the general independent interest of the county*?
 “ Could he possibly flatter himself with the least hopes of *their* support, on any other foundation? Must not he naturally expect *their* revolt, the moment he appeared to act upon any other principle? Does not the whole tenour of his canvass now clearly demonstrate, that he will not, dare not trust his cause in the hands of that independent interest? Having failed in an attempt, made indeed with *consummate artifice*, to divide an interest, which it is evident he never meant to rely upon, he boasts very awkwardly of his nomination upon a ground, which he has now openly abandoned. Has he not avowedly thrown himself upon the protection of one party only? Has he not instigated all the dissenting ministers to
 “ persecute

“ persecute a very worthy brother of theirs, merely
 “ for daring to write and vote according to the
 “ dictates of his conscience, and to declare his
 “ private opinion of the personal merits of Mr.
 “ *Hungerford*? Nay, does not Mr. *Pochin* now
 “ place his grand security in the support of a certain
 “ *ducal* personage? If he hesitates to acknowledge
 “ this, I shall presume to trouble him with a ques-
 “ tion, which has been repeatedly asked him, (but
 “ as repeatedly and studiously evaded) Whether
 “ upon the death of a former member of ours, and
 “ when Mr. *Pochin* seemed inclined to appeal to the
 “ decision of the county, the leading gentlemen in
 “ that independent interest did not assure him of their
 “ countenance at the then next general election, if
 “ he would decline his pretensions? And did he
 “ not, after several days deliberation, reject the pro-
 “ position, and declare, that his connections with
 “ the Rutland family precluded him from accept-
 “ ing assistance from any other quarter? After all
 “ this, it is astonishing to hear Mr. *Pochin* still talk
 “ of his standing upon *the general independent interest*
 “ *of the county*.

“ Let Mr. *Pochin* again be asked, whether it has
 “ not been the immemorial usage of this county to
 “ wait the result of a general meeting? And till the
 “ sense of such meeting would have been taken, has
 “ not every gentleman considered himself as tied
 “ down, in point of honour, to neutrality, silence,
 “ and inaction? Did not our worthy high sheriff
 “ (from a laudable zeal to hold the scales of justice
 “ even between all competitors) publicly advertise a
 “ general

“ general meeting for the 15th of November? And
 “ were not circular letters of Mr. *Pochin*’s dispersed
 “ at least *nine days before*? Was not this conduct
 “ equally disrespectful to the county and the sheriff?
 “ You, gentlemen, are to combine all these circum-
 “ stances, and from thence to infer, Whether the
 “ imputation of having made use of the most con-
 “ summate artifice, and a hasty and unwarrantable
 “ application, is justly founded or not?

“ Mr. *Hungerford*, I am sure, very highly regrets
 “ to find his adversaries fond of reviving, upon this
 “ occasion, odious and uncharitable distinctions;
 “ and distinctions too of a nature, which every good
 “ citizen must wish to have buried in everlasting
 “ oblivion. Let them reflect in peace, if they can,
 “ on this cruel outrage upon the repose and happiness
 “ of the community. There is not a consideration,
 “ which could afford more pain to Mr. *Hun-*
 “ *gerford*, except the idea of obtaining your suffrages,
 “ by the mere dint of corruption, *artifice*, and inti-
 “ midation. I am confident, it is his great ambi-
 “ tion to prove himself a firm friend to order and
 “ good government; an inflexible enemy to anarchy
 “ and licentiousness; a steady assertor of our civil
 “ and religious liberties; and a resolute opposer of all
 “ intolerant and tyrannical principles; and whilst
 “ he shews himself thus influenced by the *true spirit*
 “ of patriotism, moderation, and independency, he
 “ shall receive the warm and affectionate support of
 “ an old and true friend to

“ LEICESTERSHIRE INDEPENDENCY.

“ *Leicester, Dec. 17. 1774.*”

Mr. *Pochin* is charged by this letter-writer with *reviving odious and uncharitable distinctions* ; by which he means, I suppose, the distinctions of Whig and Tory. But surely no charge was ever more injuriously brought : for I am confident it may be proved to the satisfaction of all reasonable men, that, so far from desiring to *revive*, his sole view was to *destroy* distinctions, and to unite the divided *interest* of the county : nay, what is still more, that neither *now*, nor at any *former* time, would he have paid the least attention to party-matters at all, if he had not been drawn to it by this inviting prospect.

I shall open myself farther upon this point, after I have introduced a piece, which professedly replies to the Queries above-mentioned. These Queries had twice appeared in the public prints : they had stood in a kind of triumphant defiance ; and, what happens often to the most contemptible productions, were deemed unanswerable by *one* party, because the *other* had not thought them worthy of an answer. The writer of the foregoing letter plainly saw them in this light : for he speaks of them as “ questions, which “ had been repeatedly asked, and as repeatedly and “ studiously evaded.” They are answered however at length, in the Leicester Journal of December the 24th, in the following address to the printer of that Journal :

“ SIR,

“ The following Queries publicly addressed to
 “ Mr. *Pochin*, and signed by one *Q. in a Corner*,
 “ are so very singular and curious, that I think
 “ they

“ they deserve more notice, than they have yet
 “ been honoured with. They are expressed in
 “ these terms:—Sir, upon the death of the late Sir
 “ *Thomas Palmer*, when your inclinations led you to
 “ *disturb the peace* of the county of Leicester, did
 “ not the gentlemen of this county assure you, that if
 “ you would not then give any trouble to the pre-
 “ sent worthy representative, they would join you
 “ with him at the then next general election? Did
 “ not you, Sir, after some days taken to consider
 “ of that most honorable proposal, declare, that
 “ your connections with the Rutland family were
 “ such, as rendered it *impossible for you to accept of*
 “ *support from any other interest*, than that of the
 “ house of Rutland? Is this standing upon the ge-
 “ neral independent interest of the county?—

“ Mr. *Pochin* has frequently been insulted, in the
 “ course of this contest, with *disturbing the peace* of
 “ the county; I suppose, from his having used that
 “ expression, when he waved an opposition to Mr.
 “ *Noel* and Sir *John Palmer*, on the day of their no-
 “ mination. But surely he expressed himself with
 “ strict propriety, and there was much good mean-
 “ ing in what he said. Two gentlemen offered
 “ themselves as candidates; while Mr. *Pochin*, who
 “ had as much right to offer himself, and would
 “ probably have been as readily accepted, as either
 “ of them, did not however offer himself, but ac-
 “ quiesced for the sake of peace in their nomination.
 “ Did this preclude Mr. *Pochin* from offering himself
 “ at a future vacancy? Why yes, it is said; because
 “ then, contrary to his declared purpose, he would
 “ disturb

“ *disturb the peace* of the county. So that *the peace* of
 “ the county is then *disturbed*, and then only, as it
 “ should seem, when the gentlemen of the *Old In-*
 “ *terest* are opposed; not so, when the gentlemen of
 “ the *Old Interest* oppose a candidate of another in-
 “ *terest*. Will any man venture to say this? If the
 “ *peace* of the county is *disturbed*, is it not *disturbed*
 “ as much by their opposition to Mr. Pochin, as by
 “ Mr. Pochin’s opposition to them?

“ But the queries above very plainly shew, that
 “ these sons of *Old Interest* consider themselves as sole
 “ proprietors in this affair, as the only persons who
 “ have a right to manage the election of members :
 “ for they set forth, that *the Gentlemen of this county*
 “ *made Mr. Pochin a most honorable proposal, &c.—*
 “ *The Gentlemen of this county—*Now, would not an
 “ ordinary reader suppose, that the Whigs and To-
 “ ries, if we must still distinguish them, the gentle-
 “ men of both parties united, were all included in
 “ this expression? And yet, as far as I can learn,
 “ not a single gentleman was present, excepting
 “ Mr. Pochin himself, who was not of the *old in-*
 “ *terest*.—Well: but what did they propose? To
 “ *join him with Sir John Palmer at the general election*
 “ *next ensuing, if he would not give Sir John any trou-*
 “ *ble then.* And why did he not accept this pro-
 “ posal? Some think, because he could not in com-
 “ mon policy have thrown himself implicitly into
 “ the hands of a set of men, who only courted,
 “ because they feared, him; even, if he had been
 “ disposed to renounce his old friends, which most
 “ certainly he was not. But this, it seems, was not

D

“ the

“ the reason : the reason was, (so we are told, or I
 “ think we should never have found it out,) that
 “ *his connections with the Rutland-family were such, as*
 “ *made it impossible for him to accept of support else-*
 “ *where.—Not accept the support of others, because*
 “ *supported by the Rutland-family ?* It has been asked,
 “ why Mr. Pochin hath not replied to this : but can
 “ any man think of replying to such palpable non-
 “ sense ? *Not accept the support of others, because sup-*
 “ *ported by the Rutland-family ?*—Often have I been
 “ rallied, by pleasant gentlemen at a distance, as if
 “ this poor country of mine was in England, what
 “ Bœotia of old was in Greece ; a heavy, foggy,
 “ stupefying tract of land, where scarcely any but
 “ dunces are born and bred.—What has brought
 “ this mortifying imputation upon us, or who, I
 “ cannot say : but if *Old Interest* go on to give us
 “ such specimens of wit and ingenuity as this, I
 “ shall not scruple to lay the crime at their door.

“ As to *Q in the Corner*, my counsel is, that he
 “ the said *Q* doth continue in the said *Corner* : that
 “ being, as I am persuaded, a situation, which will
 “ best become him.

“ Dec. 22, 1774.

“ LEICESTRIENSIS.”

But lest this answer should not be thought quite explicit enough, give me leave to state the case particularly and fully : for by mere accident I am enabled to do this upon very good authority.

Sir *Thomas Palmer* died in the summer of the year 1765 ; and a meeting was fixed on the 30th of September, in order to supply the vacancy. Sir *John*

Palmer

Palmer was the person, whom the gentlemen of the *Old Interest* had destined for the succession: when—not Mr. *Pochin*, as the *Querist* says, but—Mr. *Boothby* was “led by his inclinations to disturb the peace of the county.” Upon this, Sir *John Palmer* and his friends were somewhat alarmed: and, to secure their election the better against accidents, strongly solicited Mr. *Pochin* to join them against Mr. *Boothby*, promising to bring in him (the said Mr. *Pochin*) at the next General Election. But Mr. *Pochin* had no inclination to oppose Mr. *Boothby*, and still less to take any step, which might look like a desertion of his principles and his friends: on which account he contented himself with saying, that he must well consider the matter they had moved to him, before he could give any answer at all about it.

This overture from *Old Interest* was made at the Assizes, which ended the 9th of August: and from this did Mr. *Pochin* first conceive the project of destroying all odious distinctions, and cementing the parties into a firm and lasting union. He knew, that the Whigs had never proposed to themselves more, than the sending of one member; and, though by a compromise the parties might be said to continue still distinct, yet the best way of blending and preparing them for an union was, certainly by preventing all future temptation to contest. There was another meeting of the gentlemen of *Old Interest* at the Races, which happened about a fortnight before the day of nomination; at which Mr. *Pochin* being present, the same proposals as aforesaid were made

to him again. He replied, that he would consent to support Sir *John Palmer* now, provided they would acquiesce in his nomination at the General Election ; adding, “ even though he should be nominated by “ *Lord Granby* himself.” This last clause revolted the whole assembly : they were ready, they said, to nominate him *themselves*, but they could not consent to have him nominated by *Lord Granby*, because That would be to give up their interest. After some altercation, the meeting broke up, without coming to any conclusion : and Mr. *Pochin* departed with a full conviction, that the scheme he had proposed could in no wise be effected. *I have seen enough*, says he, *to know, that I cannot unite the interests : Whig or Tory must prevail.*—These are his own words in a letter, written in December 1765 to a friend, who lived at a great distance, and was no ways interested in the affair ; and from this letter, *still extant*, the foregoing account is very faithfully extracted.

And now, what does this mighty matter amount to, after all ? why, not surely that Mr. *Pochin*’s “ connections with the Rutland family were such, “ as rendered it impossible for him to accept of support from any other interest ;” but that he could not accept this support, unless he first formally renounced all connections with the Rutland family and his old friends. The Tories wanted to have him altogether to themselves ; his object was, not so much to be had by either party, as to bring about, if he could, a coalition of both : and what other principle, think we, could he possibly go upon, when

when he offered himself at the late nomination, not upon a *Whig* or *Tory* bottom, but upon the *General* United Interest of the County?—Thus there is no contradiction or mystery at all, in any part of his conduct; but the whole of it from the beginning has been, what he was always desirous it should be, clear, uniform, and consistent.

Let us now relieve ourselves for a while from the dryness of altercation, and see what the Wits and the Poets are doing: for Wits and Poets there were in abundance. Indeed one of the first establishments I heard of, after the War broke out, was that of a Poet. This officer was as regularly stationed, as a centinel at his box; was always ready armed, at all points as we say; and doubtless had orders to level his specific artillery, most impartially and rigidly according to merit. But, because this said merit is a thing of a very complicated nature, and often ascertained with the utmost uncertainty, so it was agreed to prescribe to him this general and easy rule; “to write Panegyrics upon all who voted *for*, and “Satires upon all who voted *against*, his Principal.”

To insert all the productions of this sort, would be to compile a volume in quarto: let three or four serve, by way of specimen.

The Winter *Peach*; or the *Biter Bit*.

BLESS me, cries Chloe, What's here? a *Peach*?

I vow it is, and in my reach.

Observe, my dear, how plump, how round,

How fine the blush! all over found.

She pluck'd the fruit; with eager haste

She seizes on the rich repast:

O lud! she cries, I'm poison'd, kill'd;

With vilest stuff my mouth is fill'd.

On winter *Peaches* I'll ne'er venture,

I find they're *rotten* at the center.

TO CHLOE:

Author of the *Winter Peach*; or, *Biter Bit*.

DUPED by Fancy's gay vision, illusive to reach,
Deprav'd in her taste, or deceiv'd by a dream;
Chloe thought with a gust to devour a fair *Peach*,
When the toothless old jade was but nibbling at Fame.

Imbitter'd by Envy, do you point at a heart,
Where Humanity's feelings emit their pure rays?
Examine the world; it will truly impart,
That *Hungerford's* worth must obtain the bright bays.

To dry up the tear of Affliction's moist eye,
To warm the cold hand by chill penury prest,
To bid piercing want from the cottage-hind fly,
Is worthy the glow of a *Hungerford's* breast.

The

The bad to controul, or encourage the good,
All bounty to give, or with prudence restrain,
Are the qualified virtues of true British blood,
Which flows in full tide through a *Hungerford's* veins.

With a pure emanation to serve all mankind,
By each social affection endear'd to his friend,
With the love of his country possessing his mind,
Let *Hungerford's* name the wide atmosphere rend.

By analogy reason: if in private regard
His rays so contracted can ardently shine,
To the Senate exalt him, his merits reward,
And *Hungerford's* name with dear liberty join.

The Old Ranting Blues.

I.

ATTEND ye jolly hearts of gold,
Whilst I relate a story;
The lad that's honest, free, and bold,
Will in the subject glory.
'Tis of that rigid ranting crew,
Who've long in darkness wander'd;
That idolize the name of Blue,
And bow before its standard.

II.

These blust'ring sons of bigotry,
Who never had connection,
In any measure or degree,
With reason or reflection:

Who o'er their cups will fondly prate,
 And blindly boast of freedom;
 Yet suffer any tool of state,
 Through thick and thin to lead 'em.

III.

This blind-led tribe when contests spring,
 From Tuesday until Sunday,
 Will rant and roar, and drink and sing,
 About the ghost of *Mundy* :
 But they who time tell truly o'er
 Declare there's one remiss day;
 For *Mundy's* old election score
 Is not discharg'd at this day.

IV.

Inclosing does a theme afford,
 Which thousands have took part in;
 But let me ask of *Hungerford*
 How stands the case at 'Martin?
 His Rent-roll sets the matter clear,
 I speak it to his sorrow;
 They've felt the Man in *Glo'stershire*,
 And will at *Queenborough*.

V.

Of ill-got wealth I ask no share,
 Let who will dare to take it;
 But this one truth I will declare,
 Nor care who hears me speak it.

In

In lawful claims had *Belton's Dame*,
And *Borlace* too been righted ;
The country ne'er had seen this flame,
And all had been united.

Touch of the Times.

WE all very well know,
That some few years ago,
When the *Whigs* were the people in place,
No tricks were untry'd,
No arts unemploy'd,
The *Tories* to load with disgrace.

The Dissenters likewise,
Rather gull'd with their lies,
As in duty did zealously join ;
And most warmly oppose,
What they fancy'd the foes
Of the Protestant Hanover line.

But our good gracious Prince,
Has a little time since,
For wise and beneficent ends,
Turn'd the hypocrites out,
And to shew 'em no doubt,
That the *Tories* are much better Friends.

Well, what's the event ?
Why, they're still discontent,
And factious and angry remain ;
Lest they never shou'd more,
As they have done before,
Fleece their King and their Country again.

The

The most hasty reader cannot but see, with what peculiar affectation the distinction of *Whig* and *Tory* is preserved in the last of these poems; no doubt, for the sake of having wherewithal to abuse Mr. *Pochin* and his friends. I have indeed heard of other reasons; as, first, that the advocates of *Old Interest* may always be ready with an answer to every man, who shall ask a reason of their voting for this or that particular person. When a Freeholder says, *I vote for Mr. Hungerford, because he is a Tory*, this surely is a reason: as the Athenians of old, and the Florentines more recently, attached themselves to such and such parties, because their jerkins happened to be green or blue. Nor indeed can this reason be held so altogether light by those who consider, that to analyse Toryism into its first principles, and thence to deduce a consistent plan of acting, would be a very fatiguing operation to many a worthy gentleman of the *True Old Interest*.

Secondly, Ambition or a desire of being distinguished is not confined to men of powerful, enlarged, and liberal minds; but is often seen to burn with as strong (and for ought I know as pure) a flame in the lowest and meanest, as in the most exalted compositions. "Julius Cæsar," says the Oracle of the present foolish generation, "who had a noble thirst of glory, declared, that he would rather be the first man in a village, than the second in Rome (a):" and I say, what is that desire of being at the head of their company, which makes so many low-

(a) Lord Chesterfield's Letters, 69th.

lived despicable fellows, if fairly and honestly traced to its principle, but this same *noble thirst of glory*?—But though all men are desirous of being distinguished, because all men have passions; yet few are able to distinguish themselves by intellectual force, because few have parts or powers of understanding cultivated for that end. Now the great advantage of contests such as these is, that they who cannot be distinguished by knowledge, may by zeal; and as the friends of *Old Interest* have a right to their object, as well as men of brighter genius and imagination, so this is plainly a second good reason for keeping up the distinction of *Whig* and *Tory*.

I have heard too of a third reason, which is, that by these distinctions, and the contests flowing unavoidably from them, men are furnished with objects, on which more innocently and with less moral mischief to vent their passions, than on their wives, their children, and nearer connections. This argument is taken from the Stoic philosophers; who believing that all things are governed by Fate or Necessity, and that a given quantity of disturbance or confusion must happen in the Physical as well as the Moral world, used to pray, not that this deranging force might be prevented or withheld, (for that could not be) but that the objects of it might be changed: as, for instance, according to Horace, that Storms might fall upon Woods instead of Seas; *Woods*, where they could do but little harm, instead of *Seas*, where they would be fatal to Mariners:

—quodcunque minabitur *Eurus*

Fluctibus

*Fluctibus Hesperii, Venusinae
Plectantur sylvæ, te sospite—*

But to give my opinion freely upon these several reasons : the first may be genuine, and probably is so. The second also may be genuine, yet my mind misgives me that it is not so : it is of a tone rather too high for *Old Interest*. But for the third, I shall make no scruple to pronounce it upon sight absolutely and indisputably spurious : I know the genius of the *True Old Interest* too well, to be imposed upon thus. They are not of a character to relish any thing that favours of Philosophy : they hate refinement and abstractions ; and would at once suspect men approaching them with these arts, as aiming to cheat them, by the legerdemain of sophistry, out of their honest *hobby-horsical* notions, which they would immediately fall to hugging with more affectionate earnestness.

Voltaire has somewhere called us a *Nation of Philosophers* ; that is, a people above the influence of prejudice and passion, and who contemplate pure nature through the medium of pure reason. But *Voltaire* had not the happiness of knowing the *True Old Interest* in this most enlightened country of ours, else he would have restrained his compliment within certain limitations, and in so doing would have given satisfaction : for, as nothing can be more remote from Philosophy than the *True Old Interest* aforesaid, so I am persuaded the title of Philosopher would not have been pleasing to men, distinguished as they are by a make of understanding, altogether *idiosyncratic* ; that is, arising from a peculiar temperament of their own.

It

It would too much interrupt the thread of my narration, or I should like to debate a general principle of Politics with this Poet, before I quit him.

He asserts, that the *Tories* are much *better friends* to their King and Country, than the *Whigs*: that the *Whigs*, when *in place*, did *fleece* their King and Country; and that our *good* and *gracious* King has, for most *wise* and *beneficent* purposes, turned them out. But does this Poet, I wonder, know any thing of English Affairs; and especially how they passed from the Revolution in the last century, to the Accession of George the Third?

At the former of these periods, both *Whigs* and *Tories* (for the terms had *then* a meaning, though they have none *now*) in order to preserve the nation from Popery and Slavery, concurred in excluding James the Second, and in settling the Prince and Princess of Orange upon the Throne; and, in default of issue from these, upon the Princess Anne of Denmark, and the heirs of her body. But the Tories seem instantly to have repented of what they had done; for they began and continued so unreasonable an opposition to King William and his measures, that he entertained thoughts more than once of resigning the Crown, and retiring to his old more peaceable station in Holland. Happily he did not; but, living to see Anne bereaved of issue, procured "An Act for settling the Succession of the Crown upon the house of Hanover:" else, my dear Poet, instead of the *good* and *gracious* King we have at present, we might probably have had a King neither so *good* nor so *gracious*.

But

But did not the Tories concur with the Whigs in all these excellent measures? *By their fruits ye shall know them.* The Tory Ministry, at the end of the reign of Queen Anne, were undoubtedly laying schemes to set aside the Succession: the Party have shewn their dislike of it ever since, by raising all possible opposition to the Whigs, who have been the constant abettors and supporters of it: and if I do not, in this account, lay the two Rebellions, which have happened between the aforesaid æras, directly to the Tories; yet surely there is nothing violent in supposing, that these Rebellions would not have happened, but from that strong and unrelenting disaffection, which the Tories have shewed to the House of Hanover. All conceivable hopes of success must have been founded chiefly, if not solely, upon this.

And yet, notwithstanding the outcry and bustle that has been made, I will appeal to every man conversant in history, whether any nation of the world, ancient or modern, can furnish a period, where the natural Rights of Men, and the conveniencies and comforts flowing from them, have been more fully and completely enjoyed, than by the English nation in the period above mentioned?—What has been enjoyed from the accession of George the Third, since the Tories, as they will call themselves, have been our managers, I forbear to discuss. May *their* administration preserve these rights, and supply these comforts, in greater abundance than we had them before. I have an unfeigned goodwill towards all men; and wish them service, from whatever quarter it may come. I would gladly myself serve every man of every party,
if

if it were in my power; and if I oppose the *True Old Interest* of this my native country, it is from a full and perfect conviction, that their principles have a tendency to make mankind less perfect and less happy, than I would wish they should be.

But now to get a little on with our history. There had for some time been heard in every corner of the county grievous complainings from both sides, concerning the application of *undue influence* in obtaining votes; and *Old Interest* affected to feel the injury so sensibly, that one of their agents caused the following Dialogue on a *Free Election*, to be printed in the Leicester Journal:

“ A DIALOGUE, between two Ladies: LUCY
“ and HARRIOT.

“ Well Harriot, which side is your good man to
“ give his vote? I suppose you have had both parties at your house before now?

“ Why, Lucy, I must confess, if it is to be a
“ Free Election, every one that has a vote to give
“ should shew himself an Independent Man in this
“ point, and neither be bias'd by Party or Interest.

“ I should be of the same opinion, Harriot, but
“ when my Lord says, you must vote for such a
“ one, or turn out, how then are we to act?

“ Why, Lucy, to speak plain, no Lord should
“ interfere, as by that means they deprive the
“ Freeholder of his just right. Let them if they
“ please, be free in their choice, and leave the rest
“ to vote as they like.

“ I *admire* your opinion mightily, Harriot, it
“ puts

“ puts me in mind of what I heard the other day,
 “ which I am sure you will be pleased with :

“ One of Mr. *Pochin's* party was compelling a
 “ Freeholder to vote for him, or he must turn out.
 “ On which the farmer says, *give my service to Mr.*
 “ *Such-a-one, and tell him I am ready and willing*
 “ *to leave his farm; and unless he'll vote for Mr.*
 “ *Hungerford, I'll quit it at Lady-day next, instead of*
 “ *Michaelmas, and let him make the best on't; tell him*
 “ *that, Friend?*

“ This man, Lucy, spoke like a True British
 “ Subject; and I could wish others would follow
 “ his example. Mr. *Hungerford* most certainly is
 “ well worthy our esteem; his actions, which are
 “ so conspicuously meritorious, will ever render him
 “ amiable, even to his very enemies.

“ *Oh! may he live long, who such virtue possesses;*

“ *And, in spite of his foes, be crown'd with success.*”

Such is the stile and manner of the *True Old Interest*; and such are the champions sent out to maintain it. No man can even guess, and indeed it is well he cannot, to what lowness of drudgery certain unforeseen and unexpected situations may consign him. Can any drudgery be lower, than to engage with such antagonists as these? and yet, if they are suffered to pass unnoticed, we are sure to hear of nothing but Victory and Triumph. It must be this single consideration, I presume, for it could be no other, which occasioned the following notice, slight as it is, to be taken of this so very mean a production.

To

“ To the Printer of the LEICESTER JOURNAL.

“ Pray, Mr. Gregory, what is become of *Harriot*
 “ and *Lucy*, whom we saw, in your last paper but
 “ one, debating so wisely on the *freedom of Election*?
 “ Not, that I have any the least passion about them :
 “ for, do you know, Sir, that I had figured to my-
 “ self two fine young girls, from whom I expected
 “ vivacity and wit? when, behold! a couple of an-
 “ cient reasoning dames, proving dull sense upon a
 “ very dull subject.—Thus imagination eternally
 “ deludes us; and my *Junos* proved to be rather
 “ worse than *Clouds*.

“ I may justly call their subject a dull one. *Mr.*
 “ *H*’s people are constantly bawling out the old com-
 “ plaint of encroachments upon the *freedom of Elec-*
 “ *tion*: as if *they* truly were acting openly upon the
 “ calmest, the fairest, the most candid principles of
 “ simple-minded innocence, while the *other side* were
 “ working in the dark with all the artifice and fraud,
 “ which even malice and knavery can devise. What
 “ very trite worn-out stuff is this! If *Harriot* and
 “ *Lucy* have nothing to give the public more enter-
 “ taining than this, they had better be content with
 “ *admiring* each other.

“ It may be said with boldness, because it may be
 “ said with truth, that there never was an Election
 “ yet, where the Candidates did not think it justifi-
 “ able to use the means of obtaining Votes, so stu-
 “ pidly at present made a matter of complaint: that
 “ is, they first applied in their own persons to the

E

“ Elector;

“ Elector ; and, if their own personal interest could
 “ not prevail, they next applied to those, whose in-
 “ terest with him might be stronger. This has al-
 “ ways been thought fair, and always been prac-
 “ tised by each Party, as they could.—*Lucy* relates,
 “ that an agent of *Mr. P.* had used violence with a
 “ tenant, in threatening to turn him out, if he did
 “ not vote for his Principal. The thing is probably
 “ a fiction, invented merely for the purpose of car-
 “ rying on the war : but, if it were a truth, are not
 “ the weapons of retaliation at hand ? and may not
 “ the same be proved upon *Mr. H's* agents as clearly,
 “ as that light proceeds from the sun ?

“ While these old Gentlewomen were descanting
 “ upon *undue influence*, they do not seem to have re-
 “ collected the letter, which was written by an agent
 “ of *Lord Hyde* to *Mr. Ludlam* : where however their
 “ Party through eagerness mistook a little, in sup-
 “ posing they had *influence*, where they really had
 “ none.—By the way, did any thing ever shew
 “ greater iniquity and greater folly, than the charge
 “ insinuated in that letter against *Mr. Ludlam* ? The
 “ iniquity of it was displayed in *Mr. Ludlam's* an-
 “ swer, even to the confusion of the most daring ob-
 “ loquy ; and the folly of a charge so notoriously
 “ unjust, and hence hurting the cause which was
 “ meant to be served, is so egregious, that (one would
 “ think) it could not have been committed in any
 “ country, excepting that of the ancient *Bæotians*.
 “ —But these very *outrées* and marvellous strokes are
 “ the things, which have already disgraced, and
 “ will finally ruin us. Coming so thick one upon
 8 “ another,

“ another, they will infallibly confirm and perpetuate this opprobrious nick-name, which some have given us : and of which whatever may be the consequences, I am every day more and more convinced, that we may thank *Old Interest* entirely for them.

“ I am, Sir, Yours, &c.

“ 30 Dec. 1774.

“ LEICESTRIENSIS.”

For my own part, I must be free to say, that these complaints about *undue influence*, which ever side they have come from, have always been unpleasing and even disgusting to me. Each party have availed themselves of all the influence they could acquire : and if to acquire influence be indeed a sin, it is a sin of which both have been guilty. There is indeed an influence of a very unjustifiable sort ; I mean, the influence of sticks, stones, and bludgeons : and if the depositions from *Harborough*, concerning a pretended violence to the Freeholders there, had even the appearance of standing upon any foundation at all, no body would be more ready to condemn it than myself. But they are indeed a burlesque upon depositions, and were thought so when printed by the very party they were intended to serve. *Harborough* no doubt is become illustrious by this election : it is illustrious for being the seat of residence to the Reverend Mr. *Stephen Addington*, so often mentioned ; and it is illustrious also for one *Benton*, who keeps the Swan Inn of that town. This fellow is perhaps the compleatest puppy, that Nature in all

her caprices has yet thought fit to exhibit : whose name, however, need not have been recorded in the history of this election, if he had not, with a most unparalleled insolence and brutality, turned out of his yard certain gentlemen, friends of Mr. *Pochin*, or (which is the same thing) their servants and horses ; refusing to accommodate them, merely because they presumed to differ from him in the choice of a candidate.

I have amused the reader above with witty things in verse : let me detain him one moment longer with a witty thing in prose ; if that indeed can be called prose, which is neither verse nor prose, but consisted almost of dumb shew only. There were with us, as I suppose there are in all such cases, houses for committees ; where the leaders of each party assemble to consult, and where clerks and proper agents are stationed to do business. These houses are more curious in their regulation and manner, than can easily be imagined by one, who has never visited them. Whoever enters there, finds himself immediately in a state of nature, where all things are upon a level and common to all ; and every man says and does, what seemeth good unto him. And yet a most arbitrary power is seen to prevail there. Dispatches are signed, and papers sent to the press, with the candidate's name at the bottom, though the candidate perhaps be twenty miles distant : and orders, without the least respect to persons, are given as authoritatively, and must be obeyed as implicitly, as any ever issued by the General, from the Jesuits office at Rome. In short, we are sent, at a moment's warning, to any part of the county, nay perhaps in urgent

gent cases to any part of the kingdom; not indeed like missionaries to propagate the gospel in foreign parts, but, to use Sir *Henry Wotton's* language, rather as embassadors to *lie* abroad for the good of our party. Well: over the door of one of these Committee-Houses—but, pray take the story, as it was transmitted to me; for I may very probably spoil it in the telling.

“ S I R, *Leicester, Dec. 30, 1774.*

“ There is nothing so shocking and abandoned,
 “ to which the depravity of men is not equal.
 “ Lately was perpetrated at this place one of the
 “ most atrocious facts, which perhaps has disgraced
 “ the annals of any country. Over the door of
 “ Mr. *Hungerford's* Committee-House was fixed a
 “ little quadrangular board, like a milk-board in
 “ an alley, on which was inscribed in capitals,
 “ *HUNGERFORD's COMMITTEE*. Well, to
 “ be sure, this board was, by certain Atheistical
 “ wretches—for such cannot believe either God or
 “ Devil:—I say, this board in the night was feloniously taken, carried away, and affixed to that execrated beam, at the bottom of Red Hill, near Mr. Alderman *Oliver's* house. And, not content with carrying away the board, they tacked a paper in its place with these opprobrious words,
 “ *Hungerford's Committee removed to the bottom of Red Hill.*—The times, and manners! Can law or gospel have any existence here? What could these miscreants mean, by removing so respectable

“ a body to so disgracing a situation?—We hear,
 “ that Mr. Alderman *Oliver* was struck the first with
 “ this most painful spectacle; which affected him so
 “ very sensibly, that he was scarcely able to remove
 “ it. Poor unfortunate Gentleman!”

The contest was now very far advanced, and things began to put on a most serious aspect; especially among the partisans of *Old Interest*, who little dreamed that they would come to this. They had built their hopes, as there is reason to believe, upon a supposed irresolution and timidity in Mr. *Pochin*, which deceived them into a persuasion, that he never would stand a poll. They had all along objected to him connections with the House of Rutland, as the foundation, on which his firmness and perseverance was built; and, as I must needs think, they had treated that House in a manner less decent and less liberal, than, consistently with even a declared opposition to its influence, they were under any the least necessity of doing. In this situation of things, the following paper was inserted in the Leicester Journal of January the 7th.

“ To the Printer of the Leicester Journal.

“ Sir,

Jan. 6. 1775.

“ IT has constantly been objected to Mr. *Pochin*,
 “ ever since his *inclinations led him to disturb the peace*
 “ of the county, by offering himself as a candidate,
 “ without leave first obtained from the gentlemen
 “ of *Old Interest*, that he *hath connections with the*
 “ *Rutland family*; and this objection hath been
 “ urged

“ urged in a very singular stile and manner, as if
 “ such connections were not only a disqualification
 “ to him as a candidate, but had something also in
 “ them even disgracing.

“ In your paper of December the 3d, Mr. *Pochin's*
 “ friends are described as a *set of men, who had long*
 “ *served under the banners of the Governor of Belvoir-*
 “ *Castle; towards which place Mr. Pochin hath cast his*
 “ *eyes, as to that hill whence he was to derive his chief*
 “ *assistance and support.* In that of December the 10th,
 “ the celebrated Mr. *Stephen Addington* ridicules his
 “ antagonist for taking a character of Mr. *Pochin*
 “ from the *echo of the world.* Climbing up some hill
 “ in his neighbourhood, saith this distinguished person-
 “ age, *an east wind whistles in his ears from the en-*
 “ *virons of Leicester, or of BELVOIR CASTLE,*
 “ *Pochin for ever—and again, Pochin for ever—away*
 “ *he runs, huzza, boys! the whole world is crying,*
 “ *Pochin for ever.*—The wit and urbanity of this is
 “ not quite so *Attic*, as might be wished: but no
 “ matter: it is not quoted for its wit and urbanity.
 “ —In that of December the 17th, a third writer
 “ asks Mr. *Pochin*, with an air of sagacity that almost
 “ pierceth, whether he does not *place his grand secu-*
 “ *rity in the support of a certain DUCAL personage?*
 “ And, if Mr. *Pochin* hesitates to acknowledge this,
 “ he then presumes to ask, whether, upon a former
 “ occasion, he did not reject a proposal from the
 “ *Gentlemen of Old Interest*, because his *connections*
 “ *with the Rutland family precluded him from accepting*
 “ *assistance from any other quarter?* Let this magi-
 “ sterial writer be informed, if he does not know it

“ already, that Mr. *Pochin* is incapable of making so
 “ foolish a reply : to make such replies as these,
 “ belongs solely to *Old Interest* ; and the privilege,
 “ with my consent, shall be vested in them and their
 “ heirs for ever. The writer had spoke better
 “ sense, and been nearer the truth too, if he had
 “ made Mr. *Pochin* reply, that he *could not accept*
 “ *assistance from the Gentlemen of the Old Interest, be-*
 “ *cause it was offered upon condition, that he would make*
 “ *a formal and solemn renunciation of connections, with*
 “ *the Rutland family and all his friends* ; and thus
 “ submit to be, as in effect he must have been, the
 “ lowest instrument of the Tory-Party.

“ But to return : I have extracted the foregoing
 “ passages to shew, what an utter disqualification
 “ and even blemish in a candidate it is deemed by
 “ *Old Interest*, to have any connection with this no-
 “ ble family : and really from these writers it should
 “ seem, as if some very malignant taint was acquired
 “ by this connection, and the party became infected
 “ so pestilentially as it were, that he could not be
 “ received among the patrons of *Old Interest*, till he
 “ should have performed a sort of quarantain ;
 “ could not be initiated into the mysteries of *Old*
 “ *Interest*, till he should have been cleansed and
 “ purified by certain preparatory rites : and some I
 “ perceive are of opinion, that, if Mr. *Pochin* had
 “ but carried himself rightly and duly through this
 “ previous ceremonial, upon the occasion alluded to
 “ above, he would long ago have been one of the
 “ *Epoptai* or Adepts among them.

“ For

“ For my own part, I shall not scruple to confess, that, whatever may be meant by *serving* under the banners of the Rutland family, I had rather serve under these, than under the banners of *Old Interest*. The house of Rutland hath always been distinguished by its zeal and firmness for the natural rights and liberties of men; hath produced personages, who have been illustrious in the arts of war and peace; and if we confine our view to the present rising hopes of the family, what may we not expect from him, either as a man of sense, a scholar, a gentleman, or a nobleman? He has all the virtues and accomplishments of a private gentleman, joined to that greatness of soul and spirit, which should more especially distinguish the Noble.

“ Should *Old Interest* however persist, that persons, even such as I describe, would yet be very unfit to represent men of *their* spirit and principles, I shall not contend. Their principles, if I mistake not, are principles not of the noble, the enlarged, the liberal kind: they are the principles of slaves, not of gentlemen; of monks and visionaries, not of men, who deserve the name of christians: and, in short, are so far from having any thing free or independent in them, as their advocates affect to boast, that nothing can be more contracted, mean, and despicable. And for the spirit and temper, which these principles have inspired, it is such a spirit and temper, as such principles will always inspire: sour, bigotted, arbitrary, and persecuting.

“ If,

“ If, after all, I have mistaken this spirit and
 “ these principles, let some champion of *Old Interest*
 “ step boldly forth, and shew us what they are.
 “ Let him ridicule my ignorance, and rebuke my
 “ forwardness, in attempting to describe what I
 “ really did not know ; and let him present us with
 “ a more agreeable and pleasing picture. I shall
 “ patiently submit ; nay, I shall even be obliged :
 “ and I promise him on my part to co-operate with
 “ him in his purpose, by making him as instructing
 “ and entertaining to the public as I can. But till
 “ this be done, I shall hardly get rid of those un-
 “ gracious and degrading attitudes, under which *Old*
 “ *Interest* hath hitherto exhibited the *human form*
 “ *divine*, as Milton calls it ; and which, if they did
 “ not seem so very serious and in earnest, I should
 “ swear they intended for *caricatures* of it.

“ I am, Sir, Your’s, &c.

“ LEICESTRIENSIS.”

But—is it not right to resist the Nobles ? Do they
 not interfere too much with the Commons ? Are not
 the House of Commons in danger of being made by
 the House of Lords ? and shall we not then be upon
 the verge of an Aristocracy ? To which it may be
 replied, that if there really be virtue enough left
 among Britains to preserve their liberty, as I trust
 and hope there is, let this liberty for heaven’s sake
 be preserved. If the Commons of the kingdom dis-
 dain connections with the Nobles, let the Nobles be
 kept at a distance. But why must a particular fa-
 mily

mily be singled out, for bigotted and narrow-minded party-men to level their ill humor and ill breeding at ? a family too, on whom, if we must finally rest on Nobles, we may repose ourselves more securely, than on others whom they would be glad to recommend to us.

Mean while, how came it ever to be imagined at all, that the Freeholders of Leicestershire, by accepting the interest of the House of Rutland, (for really this is all, which can reasonably be meant by this so much dreaded connection) must unavoidably become slaves and dependents on that House ? The House of Devonshire resides in the county of Derby : hath an exceeding large property, with an interest sufficient to carry almost any thing. I will draw no comparison between the gentlemen of *Old Interest* and the gentlemen of Derbyshire, because comparisons are odious : but I may ask, whether the gentry and freeholders of that county are not upon as enlarged and liberal a footing, and as far from being slaves or dependents, as the gentry and freeholders of any county whatever ? Mankind do not become slaves under the shelter and protection of such Houses, as the Houses of Devonshire and Rutland. The Nobles of these Houses have held and do hold large and generous principles ; are friends and lovers of mankind ; and, it is presumed, have nothing more at heart, than to preserve to all men the full and fair possession of their natural rights and privileges. It is not easy to conceive, how things may lie in the head of a *True Old Interest* man ; else I should make myself very sure, that all this dread
of

of the House of Rutland was nothing more, than a pretext for keeping up a spirit of party; in order, as I should fancy, to have the pleasure, once in seven years at least, of exerting violent passions in favor of foolish prejudices.

The day for taking the poll was now approaching; when, behold! a very fierce, but surely a very frivolous, dispute arose between the candidates, concerning the place where this poll should be taken. It was deemed inexpedient, as well as irregular by Mr. *Pochin*, to have it fixed within the precincts of the Borough: and the place, which the Sheriff had pitched upon out of it, seemed so very incommodious, that Mr. *Hungerford* thought it necessary to signify in the public paper, that it was done without any concurrence or even knowledge of his. Nay, by way of ridiculing the incommodiousness of the place, his agents put out a hand-bill, setting forth, that “the poll was to be taken at the top of St. Martin’s spire, and that the voters were to be “drawn up in baskets:” for these gentry would now and then be aiming at wit, though their talents lay vastly remote from any thing of this sort.

The place of polling however was at length fixed to be at the castle, and it began upon the 12th of January; when nothing singular was observed, unless that may be called a singularity, which seems to have given disgust to the writer of the following letter.

“ To

"To the Printer of the Leicester-Journal.

"SIR,

Jan. 12.

"As we were marching this morning to the
 "Castle, I observed upon the flags certain words in-
 "scribed, such as *Loyalty, Liberty, Independency, Hos-*
 "pitality, &c. all which I perfectly well understood ;
 "but in Mr. *Hungerford's* flag I spied the word
 "Ability, the meaning of which I could not so clearly
 "ascertain ; but, from its being thus singularly ex-
 "hibited to public view, imagined, that it must be
 "of nice and curious interpretation. Does it, I
 "wonder, mean strength of body ? That, in the
 "days of Hercules, was of the first sort of merit ;
 "and is probably the merit intended here. It is
 "at least the merit, by which *Old Interest* are chiefly
 "distinguished : for, according to the prophecy of
 "an ancient writer, they cultivate strength of body,
 "rather than acuteness or strength of understand-
 "ing (a).

"Others will have it allude to intellect merely ;
 "and say, that Mr. *Hungerford* means nothing less
 "than to declare, that he is able in mind and men-
 "tal acquisitions, and qualified far beyond the or-
 "dinary run of candidates to occupy a seat in the
 "House of Commons. If Mr. *Hungerford* really
 "means this, 'tis the modestest declaration that ever

(a) Omnes Bæotij magis firmitati corporis, quam ingenij acumini,
 inservient. Nepos in Alcib.

" was

“ was made. Candidates are usually content with
“ promising, that they will acquit themselves to the
“ *best* of their *powers*, or as *well* as they *can* : but
“ here is a candidate, who puts *can* entirely out of
“ the question ; proclaims to all the world the suffi-
“ ciency of his *powers* ; and gives us to understand,
“ that, if *he* does not acquit himself up to perfection,
“ *the cause*, as *Shakespeare* says, must be solely in his
“ *will*.

“ If Mr. *Hungerford*'s agents, and not Mr. *Hun-*
“ *gerford*, are the authors of this most extraordinary
“ exhibition, I shall only say, that it is quite of a
“ piece with the many wonderful strokes of policy,
“ which they have displayed in the conduct of this
“ affair. Mr. *Hungerford* has not been insulted with
“ a *want* of *abilities* : it would be wrong to insult
“ any man with not being, what he is not formed
“ to be. But it would certainly be right in Mr.
“ *Hungerford* and his agents, to be somewhat more
“ modest, as well as somewhat more *politic*, than to
“ talk of *abilities* ; for surely there is little policy in
“ starting a topic, which must in the issue disgrace
“ the cause it is intended to serve. Mr. *Addington*
“ indeed informs us, that not the warmest of Mr.
“ *Hungerford*'s opponents have ever *disputed* his abi-
“ lities ; and I on the other hand will inform Mr.
“ *Addington*, that I have heard them very greatly
“ *disputed*, and by persons too, in no ways prejudiced
“ against Mr. *Hungerford*, and who interest them-
“ selves little in the present contest.

“ But the *dispute* is impertinent, and had better
“ be dropped. I have only to wish, that every man
“ would

“ would be modest and decent, let his *abilities* be
 “ what they will ; and, above all, that certain per-
 “ sons would not expose themselves to ridicule and
 “ contempt, when there is every conceivable reason
 “ against their so doing.

“ LEICESTRIENSIS.”

Some have thought, that if *Leicestriensis* could have foreknown, what has since been revealed in the Leicester Journal of the 11th of February, far from being disgusted with the term *Ability*, he would have felt the extreme propriety of it. The Journalist delivers himself in form and manner following :

“ On Monday last *John Peach Hungerford*, Esq;
 “ the worthy newly elected member for this county,
 “ took the oaths and his seat in the House of Com-
 “ mons. *Immediately*, after Mr. *Hungerford* had gone
 “ through the usual forms and ceremonies, came on
 “ the *grand* national debate, respecting Great Bri-
 “ tain and the Colonies : when that gentleman gave
 “ convincing proofs of his Parliamentary *Abilities*,
 “ and did not leave the House till three o’clock on
 “ Tuesday morning. Mr. *Hungerford* voted for the
 “ Americans being compelled to obey the British
 “ laws.”

Yet, what do we collect from this extraordinary paragraph ? Why, that this *grand* contest did not *come on*, till Mr. *Hungerford* was compleatly seated in the House ; that, from its coming on *immediately* after, it seems to have been made a point by the
 House,

House, that so *grand* a contest should not *come on*, till so extraordinary a member should be seated ; and that Mr. *Hungerford* gave *convincing proofs of his Parliamentary Abilities*—by what ? not, I suppose, by voting on the side of the ministry, because *any* abilities are equal to That ; but by keeping himself awake till three o'clock in the morning, perhaps without a flapper : for it is *certain*, that the gentleman did not utter a single word upon the point under debate.—What follows, is a postscript to the foregoing letter.

“ P. S. I have just been informed of a certain
 “ hand-bill, setting forth, that the poll was to be
 “ taken at the top of St. Martin’s church, and that
 “ the voters were to be drawn up in baskets. This,
 “ I suppose, was meant as a stroke of smartness
 “ upon the incommodiousness of some situation,
 “ which the Sheriff had fixed for the place of poll-
 “ ing ; and passes, it seems, with the party for wit.
 “ If it is indeed wit, it must be wit in this country
 “ only : for surely in any other, nay even in this,
 “ excepting the few spots where *Old Interest* pre-
 “ vails, nothing would be deemed more ridiculously
 “ low and vulgar. I have done all I can to ward
 “ off from my unhappy countrymen the vexatious
 “ imputation of being a dull, thick-headed, stupid
 “ people ; and more particularly from *Old Interest*,
 “ on whom this imputation has lain the heaviest. I
 “ have hinted more than once to this said *Interest*,
 “ and I have collected it chiefly from my contempla-
 “ tions upon *them*, that the soil of this country doth
 “ not

“ not seem proper for the growth of wit: but no
 “ hints nor admonitions have availed in the least,
 “ and they still go blundering on without *fear* as
 “ well as *wit*. If it hath not pleased God to make
 “ them a sharp and *witty* tribe, as certainly it hath
 “ not, they should surely be content with what he
 “ hath made them. To cultivate a little home-
 “ spun sense in a plain honest way, is *what* they
 “ should aim at; and, as nothing beyond this hath
 “ been entrusted to them, it is *all* they should aim
 “ at: ever bearing in remembrance, what they have
 “ given but too frequent occasions for us to know
 “ and feel, that we do not breath the pure ætherial
 “ air of Athens, (the *tenue cœlum Athænarum*, as
 “ *Cicero* says) but the gross, dense, oppressive damps
 “ of Bœotia: ——— *Bœotum in crasso jurares aere*
 “ *natos.*”

“ LEICESTRIENSIS.”

It was observed by — —, Esq; that there must certainly have been some mistake in the above concerning the place fixed upon for polling, and that the top of St. Martin’s spire could not possibly be *it*; that station having been occupied long since by one Mr. *Tony Weathercock*: but what this means, or who this Mr. *Tony Weathercock* really is, I have not been able, after my most diligent enquiries, even to conjecture.

The two following pieces are answers to the *Leicestriensis* of January the 6th; and the third is a reply to these.

F

“ To

“ To the PRINTER,

“ SIR,

“ ——— *Magnos metuunt armenta leones.*

“ VIR.

“ Arm, arm ye shepherds, and your folds defend ;

“ The tawny lions from the hills descend.

“ A Writer, who calls himself *Leicestriensis* in
 “ your two last Journals, hath chosen to walk over
 “ the election ground afresh, and with great con-
 “ fidence taken the whole business upon himself.
 “ From his first letter I flattered myself he intended
 “ only pleasantry and amusement ; and was much
 “ delighted with his design of diverting the minds
 “ of the populace, during this troublesome interval,
 “ as the good people of Rome are said to have
 “ been pacified and called to order on a like occa-
 “ sion, by the story of the—Limbs and the Belly.—
 “ But how was I disappointed and amazed, to see
 “ him in your last Journal, enter the lists, armed
 “ cap-a-pee, flinging down his gauntlet, and with
 “ menaces demanding the combat. I find he has
 “ only dismissed his troops and reduced the battle to
 “ single combat, that he alone may have the glory
 “ of the victory. He talks to us in the style of the
 “ *Masters of the noble science of Defence* ; but to be
 “ explicit with this champion, if we have a clear
 “ stage and free access to it, we have little reason to
 “ be afraid of him. The argumentative part of
 “ this business, lies in a small compass. We ap-

prehend

“prehend the Commons have the sole right of chu-
 “sing their own representatives; that this right is
 “broke in upon, when this choice is influenced by
 “members of the Upper House. The House of
 “Rutland, from its great possessions in this coun-
 “ty, is more likely than any other noble house to
 “obtain this influence, and the power of telling us
 “who shall be our members: against such power
 “the gentlemen of this *yet* independent county
 “have long united; which union has, time imme-
 “morial, been called the *Independent*, or if you
 “please, the Old Independent Interest of this coun-
 “ty. Where, Sir, is the meanness or the bigotry of
 “these principles? Is it bigotry to stand up for the
 “liberties of our country?—Bigotry is then become
 “a virtue!—The good policy of lesser states uniting
 “against a great neighbouring power, is universally
 “allowed.—Our adversaries have acknowledged the
 “above reasoning; by first placing their candidate
 “upon this independent ground; but finding it not
 “tenable, they have been forced to shift it.—Fie,
 “gentlemen, this is very unfair dealing!—this is
 “sending out *Patroclus* in *Achilles’s* armour, and
 “seems to me prophetic of his fate.

“For he a prey to *Vultures* shall be made:

“His own *Achilles* cannot lend him aid.

Pope’s Hom.

“The connection with the great family is at length
 “avowed, because it could no longer be concealed;
 “and it is now the business of this writer to justify

“ the measure. I am apt to believe this writer’s
 “ zeal hath hurried him further than what he at
 “ first intended; and that he hath taken fire from
 “ his own motion, as wheels are said to do upon
 “ some occasions. His zeal hath prompted him,
 “ not only to fall foul on individuals, but to anathe-
 “ matize the greater part of this extended county,
 “ under the name of *Old Interest*; and by a single
 “ stroke of his pen, hath at once given us a sample
 “ both of his zeal and of his charity. All this I
 “ could have borne with; but he does not stop here;
 “ full of the true spirit of Quixotism, he quarrels
 “ with the very air he breathes in, and hath spoken
 “ reproachfully of this my native country. No
 “ Sir!—hitherto I have kept my temper with this
 “ writer, but I disclaim all terms with him for the
 “ future; my country and I will perish together.
 “ What an ungracious son-in-law is this! who,
 “ whilst he is so plentifully suckled by his step-mo-
 “ ther, complains of the foulness of her breath.
 “ The Emperor who raised a large subsidy from
 “ urine never once found fault with its smell. He
 “ probably would be glad to exchange this foggy
 “ atmosphere of ours, for the purer air of *Landaff*
 “ or *Bangor*. Be it so: I shall not object; I am
 “ content with liberty and my native country. I
 “ do not pretend to say, that this beloved country of
 “ mine produces Golden-Apples, like a certain island
 “ in the neighbourhood of Bœotia; but I am too
 “ well informed that *Golden-Cabbages* are at this time
 “ very plentiful in it. I would advise my friends by

“ no

“ no means to touch them ;—to stoop for them, has
“ been always fatal.

“ Before I conclude, I cannot help congratulating
“ my dear countrymen on the near prospect of
“ peace. In a few days their feuds and bickerings
“ will be at an end, and we may again mingle in
“ festive merriment without kicking of shins :
“ Leicestriensis and I shall be no more engaged in
“ the childish play of flinging of dirt : our brother
“ freeholders may return to their freeholds again in
“ peace, and quietly enjoy themselves under their
“ own vines and their own fig-trees.

“ I am, Sir, &c.

“ PRO PATRIA.”

——*Libertas & natale solum.*

“ To the P R I N T E R,

“ S I R,

“ AS an odious, deformed, and false picture of
“ *Old Interest* appeared in last Saturday’s paper, in
“ order to prejudice the electors at the ensuing elec-
“ tion ; give me leave, in a few words, to set this
“ matter in a true light.

“ *Old Interest* consists of gentlemen firm friends to
“ monarchy, and to our happy constitution in church
“ and state, watchful against all pernicious inno-
“ vations, and guarding against the artifice and
“ craft of her enemies to undermine her esta-
“ blishment : that they may not be forced fruitlessly

“ to ask that toleration, which they now freely
 “ grant to others of different sentiments.

“ The opposite party consists of Arians, Soci-
 “ nians, Deists, and Sectaries of all denominations,
 “ who are united by one common enmity against
 “ the Church of England, but crumble into no-
 “ thing like a rope of sand when the cement is
 “ dissolved. And though I own there are men of
 “ liberal sentiments and orthodox principles, that
 “ may make use of this party, as a ladder to climb
 “ into power, yet I appeal to the world if this is
 “ not the notorious characteristic of each party.

“ A firm Member of the

“ Jan. 10, 1775. “ CHURCH of ENGLAND.”

“ To the Printer of the Leicester Journal.

“ SIR,

“ TWO writers, such as writers are now, have
 “ given us at length some account of *Old Interest*,
 “ and what is implied in that much hackneyed and
 “ technical term. One of them treats it *politically*,
 “ but this so far only, as the house of Rutland is
 “ supposed to be concerned; the other presents it to
 “ us under its *theological* form, with those distinguish-
 “ ing and striking features, which have made it ever
 “ amiable in the eyes of its adorers.

“ The *political* gentleman, who signs *Pro Patriâ*,
 “ explains himself thus. The Commons have the
 “ sole right of chusing their representatives: this
 “ right

“ right is broke in upon, when the choice is in-
 “ fluenced by Peers: the house of Rutland is more
 “ likely than any other noble house to obtain this
 “ influence, and the power of telling us who shall
 “ be our members: against such power the gentle-
 “ men of this county have long united: and this
 “ union, it seems, is what constitutes *Old Interest*.—
 “ I am as much against such power, as *Pro Patriâ*
 “ can possibly be; and on this account felt a just
 “ indignation, when I was informed, that a certain
 “ Lord had presumed to call this County *his* County,
 “ and the Members of it *his* Members: and for the
 “ non-interference of the Peerage, let it be as rigid-
 “ ly observed, as the law directs, and as this writer
 “ and his party affect to wish. I say *affect*; for it
 “ is indeed nothing more than affectation. *Old In-*
 “ *terest* have plainly no objection to the influence of
 “ Peers: they only object to the Rutland family;
 “ to whom they pretend we must all become slaves,
 “ because truly we accept of that weight, which
 “ their possessions give them; and which doubtless
 “ *Old Interest*, were it offered to them, would with
 “ most pure and undefiled hands refuse. But no-
 “ thing can be more stupidly or more maliciously
 “ pretended: and therefore, to cut the dispute with
 “ *Pro Patriâ* as short as may be, I shall content
 “ myself with declaring once more, that the house
 “ of Rutland hath always been distinguished by *its*
 “ *zeal and firmness for the natural rights and liberties*
 “ *of men*; and that for this reason and no other, if
 “ I must *serve under the banners* of a Peerage, it shall

“ be the Peerage of that house preferably to any
“ house, which *Old Interest* will present to us.

“ The other writer describes the characteristics of
“ *both Parties* : I suppose, that *Old Interest*, by being
“ contrasted as it were, may appear with greater
“ lustre.—*Old Interest*, says he, consists of gentle-
“ men, firm friends to Monarchy, and to our happy
“ constitution in Church and State, watchful against
“ all pernicious innovations, and guarding against
“ the artifice and craft of her enemies. The oppo-
“ site party consists of Arians, Socinians, Deists,
“ and Sectaries of all denominations, who are uni-
“ ted in one common enmity against the Church of
“ England.—This now is the *Theological* account
“ of *Old Interest*, and raiseth up fresh to our view
“ all the *old* obsolete notions of *Divine, Hereditary,*
“ and *Indefeasible Right, Passive Obedience, Non-re-*
“ *sistance, &c. &c.* notions, which were first started
“ and propagated under the tyrannical and oppressive
“ reigns of the *Stuarts* ; which were afterwards re-
“ vived and encouraged by the Tory Administration
“ of *Anne*, when the Ministry were concerting mea-
“ sures for the succession of the Pretender ; but
“ which have long ago been refuted again and again,
“ and are now exploded by all men of sense.

“ *Pro Patriâ* may probably see now, if he did
“ not see it before, why I give the epithets of *mean,*
“ *contrasted,* and *despicable* to the principles of *Old*
“ *Interest* ; and why I consider the maintainers of
“ such principles, as no better than *Monks* and
“ *Slaves*. He is careful himself never to touch once
“ upon

“ upon these pernicious absurdities, which have so
 “ degraded human nature, and so disturbed human
 “ happiness; and I must own, in justice to this
 “ writer, that I can discover, amidst the confusion
 “ of political wrangling, something of humanity
 “ and good temper at the bottom of him. Indeed I
 “ should have had little to have complained of in
 “ this adversary, if he had not scourged me so un-
 “ mercifully with his wit:—*flings down his gauntlet*
 “ —*armed cap-a-pee—plentifully suckled—Landaff or*
 “ *Bangor*:—doubtless he did not consider, that the
 “ wit of *Old Interest* is of the sharpest and keenest
 “ sort; and that a man must be much more callous,
 “ than it is my good fortune to be, not to be affect-
 “ ed most sensibly with it.

“ My other antagonist is quite a different per-
 “ sonage: he is of the genuine, sour, old leaven,
 “ and breathes a spirit suitable to his complexion
 “ and principles. He declares the *picture* I give of
 “ *Old Interest* to be *odious, deformed, and false*:—
 “ *odious and deformed*, I am most ready to grant;
 “ but by no means *false*, as might easily be shewn.
 “ But to what purpose shewn? and why any waste
 “ of time and argument? Is it possible to make the
 “ least impression towards a recovery upon men so
 “ bigotted and hardened, and who are *possessed* with
 “ such a *spirit*, as the spirit of *Old Interest*? No:
 “ it is not possible. With *this* they have long been
 “ cramped and *bowed together*, like the woman in the
 “ Gospel with a *spirit of infirmity*; and from *this*,
 “ like

“ like the said woman, they can never be *loosed* (I
 “ am persuaded) without a miracle.

“ Jan. 17, 1775. . “ LEICESTRIENSIS.”

“ P. S. Since I wrote the above, a *corps* of voters
 “ in favor of Mr. *Hungerford*, and as I suppose te-
 “ nants of Lord *Huntingdon*, have entered Leicester
 “ in processional form; and with a flag at their
 “ head, on which was inscribed *Liberty and the House*
 “ *of Hastings*. This I take to be the contrivance
 “ of an enemy, on purpose to injure Mr. *Hunger-*
 “ *ford's* cause, and possibly to throw an aspersion
 “ upon Lord *Huntingdon*. My reasons are these. In
 “ the first place, Lord *Huntingdon* has most certainly
 “ declared, that he would stand in the present con-
 “ test absolutely neuter; from which I cannot but
 “ conclude, that this parade must have been con-
 “ certed and conducted without his consent, or
 “ even knowledge: nay, I think I may go farther,
 “ and say, that his Lordship, when he shall hear
 “ of it, will be exceedingly displeased. Secondly,
 “ it is not easy to conceive, that *Old Interest*, who
 “ have exclaimed so vehemently against the interfe-
 “ rence or influence of Peers, and whose measures
 “ have hitherto favored of the most refined policy,
 “ should at last be guilty of so shameful and dis-
 “ gracing an inconsistency, as not only to accept
 “ their assistance, but even to *serve* literally under
 “ *their banners*.—I could wish, that none of our
 “ party

“ party had done this wicked deed ; for I cannot
 “ subscribe to that of Virgil,
 “ *Dolus an Virtus, quis in hoste requirat ?*”

I suppose *Leicestriensis* might think, that it would not become him to be too particular and serious with such a writer as *Pro Patriâ* : else he might have convicted him of blunders from one end to the other ; and, above all, that he actually mistook the object, against whom his piece was directed. *Pro Patriâ* calls *Leicestriensis* son-in-law, as if no native of the county ; represents him as *plentifully suckled*, that is, largely preferred in it ; and, lastly, supposes him to be sighing after dignities, and wanting to be a Bishop. Whereas, if the writer, who has taken the name of *Leicestriensis* in this controversy, be not universally mistaken, the very reverse of all these is the real matter of fact with him. For, in the first place, he is most certainly a native of the county, as his signature indicates. In the next, he is not highly preferred in this or any other county, but derives above two thirds of his family's support from sources, not ecclesiastic. And, lastly, he is so far from sighing after dignities, that perhaps he is at this hour the most singular man alive, in never having courted preferment at all : not, as is well known, because he wanted access to those, who could have preferred him ; but, because his humor did not lead him to give an ambitious turn to his life and studies, but to content himself with competency, and to seek his happiness in contemplation, quiet, and independence.

To

To go on with our history, which is now drawing to a conclusion. The contest ended, after a sixteen days poll, upon the 26th day of January; when, upon casting up the books, a majority of an hundred and twenty was found for Mr. *Hungerford*. It is remarkable, and indeed greatly to the honor of the county, that neither during the course of the poll, nor at the final conclusion of it, was the least tumult raised, or the least violence offered, by the friends of either party (a). Yet what dreadful accounts of intended tumults and violence were universally propagated before the day of polling, and as universally believed by both the Great Vulgar and the Small! It is reasonable to suppose, that no man ventured to Leicester, after the commencement of the poll, without settling his family affairs first; because there was nothing talked of but outrage and

(a) Nor did any thing happen in any respect singular, except the following real matter of fact; which I think ought by no means to perish with the Journal of the day, and shall therefore here be recorded in the words of the Journalist. "John Holmes, a little farmer, in the vale of Belvoir, from pure respect and zeal for Lord *Granby*, came here to poll, although the state of his health was very indifferent. Upon his arrival at the inn, he found himself worse, and desired to be conducted immediately to the hustings, lest death should intervene, and defeat his purpose: upon which he was carried, and voted for Mr. *Pocbin*, and expired within a few hours after. The circumstances of this affair being related to Lord *Granby*, the tear was observed to start into his honest eye; and he instantly ordered, that the widow should receive 30l. a year, and one of the farmer's sons be taken into his family: but the farmer being found to have only a daughter, his Lordship ordered 40l. a year to the widow"—This was honestly and candidly represented by the Leicester Journalist, considering that he is, both by temperament and connexions, a partisan of the *True Old Interest*.

bloodshed,

bloodshed, and because no man was sure of returning home with life.

The credulity of men in general is certainly great; but, from what I observed at this election, I am almost of opinion, that the credulity of Leicestershire men exceeds even that of the rest of the world. No sooner was it advertised, in those foolish hand-bills already mentioned, that "the poll was to be taken at the top of St. Martin's spire, and that the voters were to be drawn up in baskets," but I was surrounded by numbers of my honest countrymen from among the *Old Interest*; who wanted seriously to be informed, how the machinery was to be constructed, where the Sheriff would sit, what contrivances for registering the votes, how certain of the voters were to be got up without danger to their persons, and particularly Justice *Woodcock*, who it seems is very corpulent, &c. &c.

The election being now ended, it remained only for the candidates to make their acknowledgments to their friends respectively; which they did in the following addresses to the Gentlemen, Clergy, and Freeholders of the County of Leicester.

"GENTLEMEN,

"I Cannot attribute the exertion you have shewn
 "in my support, during the late contest, so much
 "to a personal regard for myself, as to your zeal
 "to promote the true independent cause in which I

“ have embarked. I feel myself happy in having
 “ stood forth its assertor; and more so in finding,
 “ that the steps I have taken have met with your
 “ approbation; but what still gives me the greatest
 “ satisfaction is, that I have selected such true and
 “ steady friends, who upon any future occasion will
 “ be ready to shew themselves superior to the influ-
 “ ence of party prejudice.

“ For your services I must ever remain your grate-
 “ ful debtor. To the worthy High Sheriff I beg
 “ leave to return my thanks for the impartiality of
 “ his conduct, and great attention to preserve the
 “ freedom of election during the course of the poll.
 “ My worthy opponent will please to accept my
 “ thanks for his attention to preserve that peace and
 “ good order, which I myself was equally solicitous
 “ to effect. As I should always have had in view
 “ the true interest of my country, had I by your
 “ suffrages been placed in a public station, so in a
 “ private one it shall be my constant study not to
 “ forfeit the good opinion you have already enter-
 “ tained of me, who have the honor to be,

“ Gentlemen,

“ Leicester,

“ Your's, &c.

“ Jan. 27, 1775.

W. POCHIN.”

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ AFTER a tedious but successful contest, by
“ which I am placed in the very honorable station
“ of your Representative in Parliament, I have now
“ the compleat satisfaction of paying my compli-
“ ments of congratulation to you, and of expressing
“ my best thanks for the very able support I have
“ experienced, from the first hour of my canvass,
“ to the final close of the poll.—Every gentleman,
“ and every freeholder, must now be convinced, that
“ neither flattery, nor the most urgent importunity,
“ nor menace, nor application of any sort, can af-
“ fect that inflexible integrity, by which the free-
“ holder of Leicestershire is so eminently distin-
“ guished; and which is not only his inheritance
“ but his glory. Be assured I will follow so fair an
“ example; and integrity and independency shall
“ mark my future conduct.

“ To those gentlemen, who with so much honor
“ to themselves have engaged in the cause of free-
“ dom, and to whose activity I am obliged, my
“ best thanks are due. But a remembrance of their
“ services will hold one of the first places in my
“ bosom.

“ To the many whose warm endeavors to serve
“ me I have profited by, in an ample manner, I
“ wish to express my kindest thanks; and to those
“ gentlemen, to whose abilities the prosperity of my
“ cause is much indebted, I wish to declare my full
“ acknow-

“ acknowledgment, as well as my invariable good
“ opinion.

“ I cannot conclude this address, without offer-
“ ing my warmest wishes, that the general disqui-
“ tude and dissonance of opinion, so destructive to
“ social intercourse, may speedily subside in the
“ county of Leicester; and that my friends and my
“ foes may with temper reflect, that the dispute of
“ a few days should not poison the sources of soci-
“ ety for years. I am, Gentlemen,

“ Your faithful and obedient servant,

“ *Leicester,*
“ Jan. 27, 1775. “ J. P. HUNGERFORD.”

The last paragraph in Mr. *Hungerford's* address is exceedingly pleasing: pleasing, as being animated with the warm and affecting spirit of candor and goodnature. What pity it is, that the rest should be so different!—To talk of *Flattery*, *urgent Importunity*, *Menaces*,—how ridiculous! As if the *Flattery*, *Importunity*, and *Menaces*, whatever they were, were not precisely the same on both sides. This is a kind of trite hackneyed language, which may in some measure be necessary to keep up the appearance of a fight, and especially (as in the present case) where through poverty of invention there is a dearth of materials; but becomes disgusting and intolerable, when the war is over, and men have subsided as it were into the calmness of their private characters.

There

There are other singularities in Mr. *Hungerford's* address, which I think shew it to have been not quite so well weighed, as it ought to have been. Are not the feelings of delicacy somewhat disconcerted, when we see Mr. *Hungerford* congratulating his constituents, as he does in the beginning of it, because they have succeeded in the choice of such a Representative as himself? Are we not hurt yet a little more, when he tells them, that on account of this their choice he “ wishes to declare his full acknowledge-
“ ment, as well as his invariable good opinion.” *Invariable good opinion!* why, this is gracious indeed: it is more than gracious; it is even royal, and might have descended with propriety from the throne upon the subject. Mr. *Hungerford's* friends have doubtless reason to congratulate one another: but how forlorn must be the state of Mr. *Pochin's* adherents, who have no share in this *invariable good opinion!* —

It has been debated problematically in my hearing more than once, how Mr. *Pochin*, a gentleman well and liberally educated, of ancient family in the county where he resides, of large and unembarrassed fortune, and of the clearest integrity and honour, could possibly lose an election to Mr. *Hungerford*, who, though a very worthy and respectable person, yet——. Some sought the cause in the different modes of canvassing: others, and the far greater part, affirmed it to have been lost by pure *dint of Law*: but a third party insisted, that the *True Old Interest* had carried it by their own proper energy, or (as he expressed himself) by mere *weight of metal*. “ Do

G

“ not

“ not mistake me, says the gentleman: I use the
 “ term with the military engineers, and mean no
 “ more than a greater momentum. A Partisan of
 “ the *True Old Interest*, though of precisely the
 “ same dimensions with one of the *General Interest*,
 “ shall yet be considerably heavier: a cubic inch
 “ of brain in the former shall weigh nearly as much
 “ again, as a cubic inch of the same substance in
 “ the latter. The reason is, that the contexture of
 “ the one is closer and denser, than that of the
 “ other; on which account it comprehends in a
 “ given space more matter, and (what is an una-
 “ voidable consequence) less of that *ætherial spirit*,
 “ which Lord *Bolingbroke* speaks of in his *Patriot*
 “ *King*: as, on the other hand, this *ætherial spirit*,
 “ where it predominates, must needs detract from
 “ that massiveness and ponderosity of brain, which
 “ constitutes the *weight of metal*, spoken of above.”
 This solution was so exceedingly clear and satisfac-
 tory, that no body attempted any farther explanation
 of the matter.

Before I close this narrative, it may not be im-
 proper to mention, that there hath lately been at
 Leicester another election among the boys, which I
 think may be called an election in miniature. All
 the old scenery hath been brought back to the stage,
 and the ceremonial punctually acted over again.
 But what doth it signify? The *True Old Interest*
 have prevailed a second time; and their adversaries,
 as the news-writer says, were as much chagrined
 with this latter defeat, as they were with the former.
 —And well they might: what! is it not enough to

be killed once, but they must be killed over again ?
is it not a grievous aggravation of misfortunes, that
they come so seldom single ?—But rouse yourselves,
my merry men all, and let not your noble courage
even yet be cast down :

—*Revocate animos, mæstumque timorem
Mittite. Forsan et hæc olim meminisse juvabit.
Per varios casus, per tot discrimina rerum,
TENDIMUS IN LATIUM—*

F I N I S.



